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CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Delegate's Message to UN on Israeli Practices *[Sanaa VOP]* 1
Al-Hasan To Brief Leaders on Washington Talks *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 3 Mar]* 1
PLO Council Meeting 'Most Likely' in Baghdad *[Kuwait AL-QABAS 1 Mar]* 1
'Arafat's Scheduled Visit to Amman 'Postponed' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
PFLP-GC Reacts to 'Arafat's 'Trite' Statements *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 2
PFLP-GC on West Bank Statement 'Forgery' *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 2
'Arafat, Nusrat Bhutto Discuss Mideast Affairs *[Sanaa VOP]* 2
Hamas Avows Adherence to PLO Leadership *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 3 Mar]* 2
West Bank Trade Union Forms Executive Board *[Algiers VOP]* 3
'Arafat Visits Uganda After Lusaka Summit *[cross-reference]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for Visit 4 Mar 4
Makes Statement *[Algiers Radio]* 4
Seeks Meeting With Al-Hirawi *[RFL]* 4

Egypt

50 'Fundamentalists' Arrested After Protests *[VOL]* 4
Israeli Agriculture Minister Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 4
Syrian Minister Arrives for Arab Labor Conference *[MENA]* 4
Syrian Embassy To Open in 'Few Days' *[MENA]* 4
Mauritanian Minister Meets With Mubarak *[MENA]* 4
Departs Cairo 5 Mar *[MENA]* 5
Senegalese President Arrives 4 Mar *[MENA]* 5
Al-Mahjub Returns From 3-Day Visit to Libya *[MENA]* 5
Ghali Returns From African Tour, Comments *[MENA]* 5
Sudanese Source Says Ban on Exports Lifted *[MENA]* 5
MENA, SUNA Officials Discuss Cooperation *[MENA]* 5
Mubarak To Convey ACC Message to Gorbachev *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 27 Feb]* 6

Libya

General People's Congress, Celebration Begin 6
Foreign Delegations Arrive *[JANA]* 6
Sudan's Al-Bashir Arrives *[JANA]* 7
Al-Bashir Visits Al-Qadhdhafi *[Tripoli TV]* 7
Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Congress *[Tripoli TV]* 7

Sudan

Al-Bashir Leaves for Libyan Visit 1 Mar *[Omdurman Radio]* 11
Comments on 'Integration Accord' *[SUNA]* 11
Agreement Reached With UN on Emergency Relief *[Omdurman Radio]* 11
Government Convoy Reaches Juba From Malakal *[Omdurman Radio]* 12
Israeli Arms Supplies to Rebels Viewed *[Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL'-AMM 1 Mar]* 12

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Appoints New Government *[Tunis Radio]* 12
Tunisian-Saudi Joint Committee Session Held 13
Economic Talks Underway *[Tunis Radio]* 13
Joint Committee Meeting Ends *[SPA]* 13
President Receives Saudi Minister *[Tunis Radio]* 14
Muslim Fundamentalist Students Demonstrate *[Paris International]* 14

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Shaykh Sa'd on Plans To Revive Parliament *[KUNA]* 15

Saudi Arabia

Lebanon's President al-Hirawi Arrives on Visit *[Riyadh Radio]* 15
Meets With King Fahd *[SPA]* 15

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Addresses FNC Inaugural Session *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 15

Yemen Arab Republic

Military Cooperation Minutes Signed With Iraq *[Sanaa Radio]* 17
Foreign Minister, PRC Counterpart Open Talks *[Sanaa Radio]* 18

IRAQ

Oil Minister Leaves for Kuwait Tripartite Meeting *[INA]* 19
Comments on Upcoming OPEC Meeting *[INA]* 19
King Fahd's Envoy Hisham Nazir Arrives 3 Mar *[INA]* 19
Delivers Message to Saddam *[INA]* 19
Departs Baghdad 4 Mar *[Voice of the Masses]* 19
King Husayn Holds Talks With Saddam, Departs *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
PRC Foreign Minister Meets With Saddam *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Comments on Resolution 598 *[INA]* 20
Pakistani Minister of State for Defense Arrives *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Meets With Saddam *[INA]* 20
Iraqi-Bangladesh Joint Committee Meets 3 Mar 20
Joint Economic Meetings Begin *[INA]* 20
Saddam Receives Envoy *[Baghdad Radio]* 20
Minutes, Cooperation Program Signed *[INA]* 21
Paper Decries Secret 'Syrian-Zionist Contacts' *[INA]* 21
Swedish Parliamentary Team Leaves Baghdad *[INA]* 21
Bulgarian Presidential Envoy Leaves Baghdad *[Voice of the Masses]* 21
Pakistani Trade Minister Leaves Baghdad *[INA]* 21

ISRAEL

Bush 'Making Mistake' on E. Jerusalem *[THE JERUSALEM POST 5 Mar]* 22
Shamir Rejects Bush Stand on Jerusalem Settlement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Shamir: No Decisions Under Pressure *[Jerusalem TV]* 22
Shamir Not To Raise Reply to Baker at Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Peres: Likud Must Decide on Reply by 7 Mar *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Forum of Four Meeting Ends Without Decision *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Labor Party Poses Terms for Decisions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Cabinet Discusses Baker Proposal, Arens' Trip *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24
Qatzav: Likud Debate Will Not End This Week *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25

Further on Likud Debate Over U.S. Proposals *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Levi Calls U.S. Proposal 'Self-Delusion' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
PM's Office: No Decision Yet on Baker Response *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Alignment Will Not Let Likud 'Drag Its Feet' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Likud Ministers Postpone Decision on Proposal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27

JORDAN

Paper Lauds Baker Position; Fears Turnabout *[AL-DUSTUR 3 Mar]* 28
U.S. Speaks 'Two Languages' in Settlement Issue *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 4 Mar]* 28
Deputies Hold Closed Session on Israeli 'Threats' *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 4 Mar]* 29
Lower House Deputies Discuss Soviet Emigration *[JORDAN TIMES 4 Mar]* 29
King To Meet Saddam on 'Short Official Visit' *[Amman Radio]* 31
Returns From 'Working Visit' *[Amman TV]* 31
Indian Parliamentary Delegation Arrives on Visit *[Amman Radio]* 31
Delegation Meets With King *[Amman Radio]* 31
Minutes of Industrial Meeting With Syria Signed *[Amman Radio]* 31

LEBANON

Iranian Efforts To Secure Hostages' Release Cited *[Voice of National Resistance]* 33
Iranian Delegation Arrives 4 Mar *[RFL]* 33
Al-Hirawi, Al-Huss Leave for Riyadh 4 Mar *[Beirut Radio]* 33
Al-Hirawi on E. Beirut, Jewish Immigration *[VOM]* 33
LF Statement Denies 'Awn's Forces 'Progress' *[RFL]* 35
Malik Cautions 'Awn on Storming Al-Ashrafiyah *[RFL]* 35
'Awn Reportedly Asks Forces To Observe Cease-Fire *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Lebanese Forces Reportedly Halt Fighting *[VOL]* 35
Al-Huss Wants Port Crossing Open for Wounded *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Calm Prevails on Combat Lines; Violations Reported *[VOL]* 36
'Awn Clings to Fighting Objectives *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 36
Lebanese Forces Positions Under Fire 4 Mar *[VOL]* 36
Unidentified Planes Fly Over B'abda, Other Areas *[VOL]* 36
Fadlallah on E. Beirut Fighting, Hostages' Release *[VOM]* 36
Islamic Leader Escapes Assassination in W. Beirut *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 37
'Mosad' Officer Killed; 'Awn Troops Down to '6,600' *[VOM]* 37
Hizballah Said Ready To Leave Iqlim Al-Tuffah *[Tehran International]* 37
Amal Says Hizballah Firing at Villages in South *[Beirut Radio]* 37
Israeli Planes Fly Over Sidon, Camps *[VOM]* 37

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Receives Visiting Iranian Official *[SANA]* 38
Egyptian Official Discusses Industrial Cooperation *[SANA]* 38
Industry Minister Jubran Returns From Amman *[SANA]* 38
Khaddam, Al-Husayni Discuss Lebanese Situation *[Damascus Radio]* 38
L'EXPRESS Cited on Anti-Al-Asad Demonstration *[Jerusalem International]* 38
Al-Asad Receives Argentinian Presidential Envoy *[SANA]* 38
Measures To Facilitate Expatriates' Visits *[SANA]* 39

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Special Court Tries 124 People for Coup Plot *[AFP]* 40
Resistance Shoots Down Plane Near Khowst 1 Mar *[AFP]* 40
Rebels Fire Cluster Missiles at Kabul Residences 41
1 Killed, 8 Injured *[Kabul Radio]* 41
More Missiles Fired *[Kabul Radio]* 41
AFP Reports 4 Killed, 15 Wounded 41
Najibullah Interviewed on Peace Prospects, Issues *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 3 Mar]* 41
100-Member Konarha Assembly Elected 1 Mar *[Islamabad THE MUSLIM 2 Mar]* 43

India

Unrest, Violence Continue To Plague Kashmir 43
Curfew Imposed *[Delhi Radio]* 43
'Subversive' Network Uncovered *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Troops Enforce Curfew *[AFP]* 44
Congress-I Says Situation 'Grave' *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Prime Minister: Nation Can Meet 'Any Threat' *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Singh Resigns as Janata Dal Party President *[Delhi Radio]* 45
States Assembly Election Results Updated *[Delhi Radio]* 45
'Terrorist' Violence Continues in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Spokesman Rules Out Support for Tamil Homeland *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Kenyan President Arrives on Transit Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 47

Iran

KEYHAN: Hostages May Be Freed by 'Mid-Summer' *[AFP]* 47
KEYHAN on 'Hostages' in U.S., Iranian Jails *[IRNA]* 47
Paper Expressing Private View *[IRNA]* 48
Editorial: Hostage Issue U.S. Propaganda Tool *[ETTELA'AT 25 Feb]* 48
UK Media Ignore 'Positive' Pohl Report *[IRNA]* 49
Yazdi Says 'No Differences' Over Rushdie Edict *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Commentary on BBC Closure in Tehran *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 21 Feb]* 50
Commentary Calls for Action Against Britain *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 20 Feb]* 51
Leaflets Call for Protests in Tehran on 4 Mar *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 51
War Refugees Demonstrate, Support Resolution 598 *[Tehran Radio]* 51
War Disabled Rally in Tehran, Support Leader *[Tehran Radio]* 52
President Stresses Armed Forces' Role *[Tehran Radio]* 52
President Addresses Industrialists 3 Mar *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Foreign Ministry Adviser on Islamic Leadership *[ETTELA'AT 15 Feb]* 54
IRGC Marks Guards Day by Renewing Covenants *[Tehran TV]* 54
Azari-Qomi Addresses Friday Congregation 23 Feb *[RESALAT 24 Feb]* 55
Minister Nuri Comments on Unrest at Football Game *[Tehran TV]* 56
Pakistani Offical Holds Meetings in Tehran 2-3 Mar 57
Views Cooperation With Nurbakhsh *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Meets With Habibi *[Tehran TV]* 57
Seen Off by Besharati *[Tehran TV]* 57
Turkish Joint Committee Meeting Held 27 Feb *[Tehran International]* 57
Turkey's Akbulut Views Economic, Trade Relations *[Ankara Radio]* 58
Calls Tehran Talks 'Fruitful' *[IRNA]* 58
Soviet Railways Minister Arrives for Joint Session *[IRNA]* 58

Pakistan

Kashmir Strike Protests Indian 'Massacre' *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Kashmir President Meets With Ishaq Khan *[Islamabad Radio]* 59
Commends Bhutto's Stand on Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 59
Bhutto To Brief National Leaders on Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 59
Official Says Nuclear Plant Poses No Threat *[Islamabad Radio]* 60

Sri Lanka

1,200 Indian Troops in North Leave for Home *[AFP]* 60
14,000 Sinhalese 'Rebels' Held by Government *[AFP]* 60
Communique Reports Number of Detainees in Custody *[LANKAPUVATH]* 60
Police Commandos Arrest 9 Suspected 'Subversives' *[LANKAPUVATH]* 60

Palestinian Affairs

Delegate's Message to UN on Israeli Practices

JN0203171990 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1616 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Zuhdi al-Tarazi, permanent Palestinian delegate at the United Nations, has asked the international community to act immediately to condemn Israel for its large-scale killing and injuring of innocent Palestinians. He also urged the international community to put pressure on Israel to make it withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories so that peace can be attained in the region.

This came in a message that the Palestinian official sent to the UN secretary general. In his message, Al-Tarazi referred to the attacks recently carried out by the Israeli Army in the occupied Gaza Strip, and particularly in Rafah, which resulted in the killing and injuring of many civilians who live in the area.

Al-Tarazi also mentioned the incident in which Zionist Israeli soldiers opened fire on a crowd of Palestinian civilians who were marching toward the headquarters of the military authorities to demand that the body of citizen Iyad al-Hims be handed over to them. He added that this incident resulted in the wounding of 52 Palestinians.

Al-Hasan To Brief Leaders on Washington Talks

JN0403172090 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 3 Mar 90 p 3

[By Huda Tawfiq in Washington]

[Text] Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, has concluded a three-month visit to the United States during which he held intensive meetings with officials in the U.S. State Department and Congress.

Before leaving for Tunis the day before yesterday, Al-Hasan told AL-ITTIHAD that he will brief the Palestinian leadership on the outcome of his contacts and the full perspective that has been formed on efforts to achieve a political settlement in the Middle East. He said he is cautiously optimistic about the success of the U.S. efforts to resolve the Israeli complications.

Al-Hasan added: If the three-party ministerial meeting to prepare for convening a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue succeeds, then we must expect very difficult negotiations and exert major and extraordinary efforts, because we will face an enemy that prefers not to reach a solution or peace.

He praised Egypt's efforts and the Egyptian diplomatic capability of facing all current developments.

PLO Council Meeting 'Most Likely' in Baghdad

JN0303150290 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 1 Mar 90 p 20

[Text] Tunis—'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO Cultural Department, has said that the next ordinary session of the PLO Central Council is most likely to be convened in March in Baghdad.

In statements to AL-QABAS, he said that contacts in this regard were made with the Jordanian Government which confirmed that Jordan would not object to hosting the session in Amman provided a suitable date were set. Since no date has been fixed yet, the session will be convened in Baghdad to discuss a list of important topics, at the head of which is the march of the blessed intifadah, the repercussions of Soviet immigration into occupied Palestine, and political moves to boost the peace process. The PLO Executive Committee member expressed the hope that future Palestinian meetings could be held in Jordan.

Asked about the composition of the official Palestinian delegation to the peace talks with Israel, Hurani told AL-QABAS it is too early to talk about the formation of this delegation and the subject was never discussed by the Palestinian leadership.

Regarding the outcome of the visit of Abu-Mazin [PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas] to Cairo to contain the recent Palestinian-Egyptian crisis, Hurani asserted the visit sought to sound out the official Egyptian position on items appearing recently in the Egyptian press. He said the Egyptian side stressed that the Egyptian leadership does not direct the press and that the recent articles do not reflect the country's official position.

Regarding information circulating about the Soviet Union's resuming ties with Israel, Hurani said: Our information suggests that the restoration of Soviet-Israeli ties is linked to progress in the peace process. Israel has not taken the necessary steps to boost the peace process which, the Soviets believe, would also lead to practical steps to restore relations.

'Arafat's Scheduled Visit to Amman 'Postponed'

JN0403142290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] A Palestinian official in Amman has said that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's scheduled visit to Amman late this week has been postponed. The same source indicated that the postponement is linked to an official tour that His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan will make to Paris and London starting tomorrow, Monday. This tour will be followed by a private visit of several days to Austria.

PFLP-GC Reacts to 'Arafat's 'Trite' Statements

JN0303202790 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] The Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR, published yesterday, quoted Yasir 'Arafat in an interview with French television the day before yesterday [1 March] as condemning what he called the excesses of Mr. Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]. Mr. 'Arafat is further quoted as saying he formed a special committee to investigate these excesses. He said he condemns all—in his words—terrorist activities, not least being the Ismailia operation, and that he is prepared to sit down for talks with any Zionist party, no matter what its political affiliation.

'Arafat's statements have provoked sharp reaction from the PFLP-GC as expressed by an official spokesman of the front. The spokesman said: Such trite statements are nothing new on the Palestinian scene. They reflect the baseness and deterioration of 'Arafat and his associates in the context of their sellout of the inalienable, historic rights of the Palestinian people. These statements are part of a campaign of U.S. and Zionist threats against the PFLP-GC's political line of keeping faith with the Palestine National Charter and Palestinian national constants. The official emphasized that 'Arafat's stand falls in with his preparations to extend recognition to the Zionist enemy, sell the Palestine National Charter cheaply, and betray the Palestinian armed struggle as a form of terror according to the American-Zionist lexicon. This is happenaing while our Palestinian people are waging their valiant intifadah and taking a determined, courageous stand against the repressive Zionist machine. The official spokesman of the PFLP-GC added: These threats by the counterrevolutionary forces will only make our front hold even more tenaciously to the aims and causes of our people and our Arab and Islamic nations. Our Arab masses will eventually sit in judgment over those who renounce the National Charter and the sacred goals of their people.

PFLP-GC on West Bank Statement 'Forgery'

JN0403194590 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Statement by a "responsible source" of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On Friday, 2 March, the Zionist Mosad distributed in militant Bethlehem and steadfast Bayt Sahur a statement in the name of the PFLP-GC. The statement is forged from the beginning to the end. A careful reading of the statement, its wording and tone, will easily show this forgery.

The PFLP-GC alerts our people in the whole of Palestine to these forged statements and their aims and objectives. While calling attention to this flagrant forgery by the Zionist Mosad, the PFLP-GC attributes such action to the systematic U.S. offensive against the PFLP-GC. Moreover, the PFLP-GC attributes this statement to another statement by 'Arafat, the leader of deviation in the Palestinian arena, in which he claimed forming a committee to investigate [excesses of] the PFLP-GC.

Our Front is aware of the extent of the conspiracy against the Front, involving U.S.-Zionist parties and those who claim to belong to Palestine. The Front is aware that all these plots are being stepped up now because the capitulators are sensing danger from the stands of the PFLP-GC. However, these plots will only increase our determination and enhance our resolve to adhere to our stand, which will confront all sellout attempts. Moreover, the PFLP-GC will continue to step up the armed struggle and promote the glorious uprising.

Revolution on the road to liberating the land and man.

'Arafat, Nusrat Bhutto Discuss Mideast Affairs

JN0303173490 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has received Nusrat Bhutto, first deputy prime minister and leader of the Pakistan People's Party.

Their talks dealt with current developments in the Middle East, the situation in the occupied territories in light of the escalation of the repressive and terroristic measures being carried out by the Israeli occupation troops, the dangers of Jewish emigration to the occupied territories, and the PLO's steps to deter these dangers that threaten peace in the region.

Mrs. Bhutto stressed the support of the Pakistani Government and people for the just Palestine question at international, Islamic, and regional forums. Bhutto gave a full briefing on developments in the regional situation.

Attending the meeting for the Palestinians were brother Abu-al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department; brother 'Abdallah Hurani, head of the Cultural Department; brothers Abu-al-Sa'id [Khalid al-Hasan] and Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee members; and Dr Sami Musallam, director of the president's office. The meeting was attended for the Pakistanis by the Pakistani ambassador in Tunis and by Mrs. Bhutto's secretaries.

Hamas Avows Adherence to PLO Leadership

JN0403153590 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 3 Mar 90 p 12

[Text] Cairo, AL-BAYAN—In a memo sent to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO leadership, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has stated that a Palestinian state is the objective of the Palestinian struggle against occupation, and that differences and

splits will not serve it. At the same time, Hamas cautioned against statements and positions attributed to it by the Israeli media.

Hamas also reaffirmed its position on supporting coordination among the various forces in the Palestinian arena, as well as cooperating with all nationalist trends to serve the intifadah. It also stressed its adherence to the PLO leadership and pointed out that it bears no hostility toward any nationalist movement in spite of the slander directed against Hamas and its leadership.

In its memo, Hamas urged the PLO to discontinue contacts with the United States, which closed its doors to Soviet Jews to force them to go to occupied Palestine instead.

Israeli media have accused Hamas of organizing attacks against the homes of two prominent leftist figures in the occupied territories—Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar and Dr. 'Umar Farurnah—with the aim of spreading sedition and discord among the Palestinian organizations acting inside the occupied territories under the supervision of the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah.

West Bank Trade Union Forms Executive Board

LD0303233490 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The General Union of Trade Unions in the West Bank has issued a statement in which it announced the formation of a unified executive board, consisting of 16 members, to reorganize the trade union movement and prepare for general elections in a year's time.

The statement reaffirmed the commitment of the executive board to the inalienable rights of the Palestinians, foremost the right of our people to establish its independent state under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO, its sole and legitimate representative.

The statement said: Stemming from concern over the unity of the workers' trade union movement, its inevitability and the need to promote it so that it could respond to the aspirations of our workers and people; in appreciation of the reality of the phase and its requirements at a period in which the need for a unified workers' trade union stance is greatest in view of the worsening of the unemployment crisis, the fall in wages, and the decline in the standard of living—a matter that has made the existence of a unified trade union movement to deal with the problems of our workers and mobilize its energies to defend its rights, achievements, and work towards its development and promotion imperative; agreement has been reached to form a unified executive board, consisting of 16 members, the task of which would be to reorganize the trade union movement in accordance with a new internal procedure which promotes the trade union structure in line with new criteria and unites all trade unions in the various regions on a democratic basis and to prepare for the holding of general elections within a year of its formation. In the event this task fails or faces difficulties, the period shall be extended for another year and the elections would then take place in any case. The executive body affirms its commitment to the inalienable national rights, primarily the right of our people to establish its independent state on the soil of its homeland with Jerusalem as its capital. It also stresses its commitment to the resolutions of the 19th session of the Palestine National Council, and affirms that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of our people. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Visits Uganda After Lusaka Summit

WA0503124290

For Kampala Radio reportage on the visit to the Republic of Uganda by PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, including the 1 March joint news conference with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, see the Uganda section of the 2 March and subsequent issues of the Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT.

Algeria

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for Visit 4 Mar

Makes Statement

LD0403132990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Algiers this morning. He was met at the airport by Foreign Minister Ahmed Seyed Ghazali and by the Palestinian ambassador to Algeria.

In a statement at the airport VIP lounge, 'Arafat said he had come to Algeria to discuss the latest developments in the Palestine arena with President Chadli Bendjedid. He added that Palestine was witnessing an intensive immigration, which constituted a threat to the Palestinian sphere and to the Arab nation and its future, as the objective has been and still is to set up a Greater Israel.

President Chadli Bendjedid currently is meeting the Palestinian leader to discuss all the developments related to the Palestine issue.

Seeks Meeting With Al-Hirawi

NC0503090790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] QNA has cited informed sources in Beirut as saying that Yasir 'Arafat asked Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to arrange a meeting between him and Mr Ilyas al-Hirawi during the latter's scheduled visit to Algeria today.

The sources said 'Arafat hopes to discuss the current and future conditions of the Palestinians in Lebanon and explore the possibility of opening an office of the Palestinian state in Beirut.

Egypt

50 'Fundamentalists' Arrested After Protests

NC0303181990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Following yesterday's demonstrations, Egyptian security troops arrested 50 fundamentalists in the town of Abu Qurqas in al-Minya Governorate, Upper Egypt. The demonstrators destroyed several buildings and set fire to a church and a sweets factory. According to police sources, the fires were brought under control three hours after their outbreak, and no casualties were reported.

Israeli Agriculture Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC0403214690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2114 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Israeli Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo tonight on a five-day visit to Egypt. During this visit, the Israeli minister will meet with Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation.

Syrian Minister Arrives for Arab Labor Conference

NC0403103890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0953 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Haydar Buzu, Syrian minister of social affairs and labor, and his delegation arrived in Cairo this morning for an eight-day visit to Egypt.

During his stay in Cairo, Buzu will participate in the meetings of the 18th conference of Arab labor ministers to be held at the Arab League Headquarters in Cairo from 6-13 March.

In an arrival statement, Buzu said he is bringing Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's affection and love to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, as well as the Syrian people's affection to the people of Arab Egypt. [passage omitted]

Syrian Embassy To Open in 'Few Days'

NC0203133590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1158 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA)—The new headquarters of the Syrian Embassy in Cairo will open in a few days, Ambassador Badr al-Din Farhan, Syrian assistant foreign minister for financial and administrative affairs, has stated. He arrived in Cairo today leading a delegation for a visit of several days. He was received at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Nihad Riyad.

Egyptian-Syrian diplomatic relations were resumed on 27 December.

Mauritanian Minister Meets With Mubarak

NC0403113890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—This morning President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Mauritanian Industry Minister Mohamed Salim Lemine and Ahmed Abdelqader, adviser to Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed, who are currently visiting Cairo.

Lemine gave President Mubarak a message from President Sid'Ahmed. He also briefed President Mubarak on the latest diplomatic efforts to solve the Senegalese-Mauritanian conflict within the framework of President Mubarak's endeavors in this respect as OAU chairman.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Mauritanian Ambassador in Cairo Ahmed Ould Sidi Ahmed also attended the meeting.

Departs Cairo 5 Mar

NC0503104090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1012 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—Mauritanian Industry Minister Mohamed Salim Lemine left Cairo for home this morning at the end of a four-day visit to Egypt.

In a predeparture statement, he said that he is taking a message from President Husni Mubarak to Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed in reply to the latter's message to President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Senegalese President Arrives 4 Mar

NC0403201190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1958 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Senegalese President Abdou Diouf and his wife arrived in Cairo tonight to visit for a few days. President Husni Mubarak and his wife welcomed them at Cairo airport. President Mubarak accompanied the Senegalese president to al-Tahirah Palace where he will be staying during his visit.

Tomorrow morning Presidents Mubarak and Diouf are scheduled to open the symposium on development and consolidation of democracy in Africa. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahjub Returns From 3-Day Visit to Libya

NC0403202190 Cairo MENA in English 1848 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, March 4 (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and his accompanying delegation returned here tonight after a three-day visit to Libya, during which he attended meetings of the General People's Congress.

Upon arrival, Dr. Al-Mahjub said his visit gave him the opportunity to meet Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, whose greetings and appreciation he will convey to President Husni Mubarak.

"As an Egyptian delegation we felt that all Libyan officials were keen on boosting the brotherly relations between the two countries in all fields and they supported every step leading to the integration among the Arab countries". Al-Mahjub invited officials of the General People's Congress, as it is considered the Libyan parliament, to participate in the African parliaments conference, to be held in Cairo on March 10th, he said.

Ghali Returns From African Tour, Comments

NC0103203890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo this evening after an eight-day African tour. During his tour, Dr. Ghali attended the 51st session of the OAU ministerial council in Addis Ababa, and the six-member ministerial committee composed of Niger, Nigeria, Zambia, Togo, Tunisia, and Egypt that was charged with assisting Egypt in mediating the Senegal-Mauritania dispute.

In an arrival statement, Dr. Ghali said that during his tour, he handed Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam letters from President Husni Mubarak. He also said he brought responses to President Mubarak from the two African leaders.

Dr. Ghali said he also attended the sixth conference of the group of the Nile Basin states known as "UNDUGO." During the conference, the members discussed cooperation among these states in all fields.

He said that a new strategy toward South Africa, especially after African leader Nelson Mandela's release, was one of the most important subjects discussed during the 51st session of the OAU ministerial council. The discussions also dealt with Namibia's independence, which is scheduled to be declared on 21 March, and the assistance that can be offered to Namibia until it is completely independent. Dr. Ghali added that a resolution was adopted calling on the European countries to continue imposing sanctions on the South African apartheid government.

Dr. Ghali concluded that he will present a report to President Husni Mubarak on the results of and resolutions adopted during these African meetings.

Sudanese Source Says Ban on Exports Lifted

NC0203181090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1651 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo 2 Mar (MENA)—A Sudanese source in Cairo has disclosed that the obstacles to implementing the Egyptian-Sudanese trade protocol were removed. This came after last week's talks between Dr. Faruq al-Bushra, Sudanese minister of trade, cooperation, and supplies, and Dr. Yusri Mustafa, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade.

The source said that the ban on Egyptian exports has been lifted, and steps are being taken to ensure payment of Egypt's overdue obligations, which total 215 million accounting dollars, to Sudan. The source said that a new Sudanese draft law for investment, aimed at bolstering economic ties in the field of investment with Arab countries and at promoting the common interests of Sudan and the Arab countries, particularly the Gulf countries, has been prepared.

MENA, SUNA Officials Discuss Cooperation

NC0403161790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1553 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Today Mustafa Najib, chairman of the MENA board of directors and MENA

chief editor, received SUNA Deputy Director Abu-Bakr Waziri, who is visiting Cairo.

During the meeting, they discussed ways of enhancing cooperation and integration between the two news agencies.

Dr. Faysal Mahmud, Sudanese Information Ministry under secretary, and Fath-al-Rahman Mahjub, director of external information, also attended the meeting.

Mubarak To Convey ACC Message to Gorbachev

PM0103153890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Feb 90 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Mubarak To Convey To Gorbachev Arab Message on Jews' Emigration"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Informed sources in Cairo have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that it was agreed at the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] summit on Saturday that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak convey to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev during his coming visit to the Soviet Union 19 March a message on the four ACC leaders' behalf regarding the issue of the Soviet Jews' emigration to Israel and the Arab states' position in this regard.

The sources said that consultations among the Arab sides regarding a discussion of the emigration issue resulted in an agreement to postpone a call for the convening of an emergency Arab summit to discuss Soviet emigration until the end of President Mubarak's visit to Moscow, until its results are known, until Arab proposals on emigration crystallize, and until the establishment of an international mechanism—with UN participation—to ensure that the emigrants are not settled in the occupied Arab territories.

President Mubarak received telephone calls from King Husayn of Jordan and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih with a view to conferring about the ACC summit's results and resolutions.

The sources pointed out that a high-level Egyptian committee is currently preparing the proposals which will be submitted to Soviet officials during Mubarak's visit to Moscow. They include the proposal that UN observers visit the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to ensure that Soviet emigrants are not settled there.

Meanwhile, in reply to remarks by by Egyptian opposition members of parliament during their discussion of the government's program, responsible Egyptian sources have denied that Egyptian territory or airspace was used to convey Soviet emigrants to Israel.

Libya

General People's Congress, Celebration Begin

Foreign Delegations Arrive

LD0103202290 Tripoli JANA in English 1808 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli. al-Rabi 1. [1 March] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Delegations from sisterly countries and friendly states continue to arrive on the land of Great Jamahiriyah—the land of people's authority—to take part in the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people of the 13th anniversary of the declaration establishing people's authority and the birth of the first jamahiriyah in history to attend the 16th ordinary round of sessions due to start tomorrow morning in Tripoli.

Before noon today the following arrived: Rifa't al-Mahjub—the chairman of the People's Council in Egypt and his accompanying delegation.
Hani al-Hasan the member of the Palestine National Council.
Sa'id Ahmad Sallum—the member of the Presidium of the People's Council in South Yemen.
Husayn Muhammad Majjalli al-Rawashdah—the member of parliament and head of legal committee in Jordan.
'Abd-al-Qadir Ashqar the chairman of the National Assembly in Djibouti and their accompanying delegations.

Welcoming the brotherly Arab delegations were the secretary of the General People's Congress, the secretaries of the people's committees affairs and the trade congresses affairs at the secretariat of the General People's Congress and both secretaries of both basic people's congresses in Tripoli and Janzur.

In statements to JANA: Rifa't al-Mahjub asserted the importance of such visit in strengthening the fraternal link between the sons of the one Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt saying "We are keen on such visits because they benefit both sisterly countries and our Arab nations".

Sa'id Sallum the member of the Supreme People's Council in South Yemen said "This visit to Great Jamahiriyah will be an opportunity to closely look at the people's democracy practiced by the Libyan Arab people.

Hani al-Hasan the member of the Palestine National Council explained that the convening of the General People's Congress has a great importance due to this situation in which the Arab nation and occupied Arab Palestine are experiencing. "We will inform our brothers in Great Jamahiriyah about the situations of the raging popular revolution being led by the generation of anger in occupied Palestine against the Zionist savages."

Husayn Majjalli, the member of the Jordanian parliament, conveyed the greetings and the appreciation of the Arab people of Jordan to its brother the Libyan Arab people saying "We are one people fighting one battle against enemy which requires us to unify our efforts and consolidate to confront the Zionist enemy which is aiming at our nation".

He asserted that Jordan has no way but to consolidate its solidarity with its Arab nation to confront the Zionist enemy so that we will be able to liberate all occupied Arab territories.

On his part the member of the National Assembly in Djibouti stressed the importance of strengthening the fraternal relations between Great Jamahiriyah and Djibouti. He asserted that his visit will contribute in boosting the fraternal relations linking the one Arab people in both Great Jamahiriyah and Djibouti.

Sudan's Al-Bashir Arrives

LD0103202290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1840 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 1 Mar (JANA)—General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], and the accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli today for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir was at the forefront of those on hand to welcome him. [passage omitted]

Gen. al-Bashir is accompanied in this visit by Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the RCC, and Engineer 'Abd-al-Mun'im Khawlaji, minister of energy and mining. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Visits Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0103205590 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, and the accompanying delegation, together with Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir, today visited the brother leader of the revolution who has caught a very bad cold. [Video shows Al-Qadhdhafi in bed with traditional Libyan head scarf covering his head and mouth, and visiting delegation members embracing him in succession]

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Congress

LD0203155890 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1047 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Speech by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the opening session of the General People's Congress in Tripoli—live]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to God, brothers. I would like to welcome our dear brother, General 'Umar al-Bashir, leader of the revolution in Sudan. I would also like to welcome the brotherly Sudanese people, and the delegation representing its people's committees. I also welcome all friendly and brotherly delegations who are celebrating with us today the establishment of the first jamahiriyah on earth, whose people are able to rule themselves directly without representatives or mediators. This is done through people's congresses and committees, and the establishment of the masses system during this era of the masses. [passage omitted]

The third international theory prophesized that the masses would rebel against this black path. This does not mean that communism is not a good thing, but if true communism were realized it would have been heaven on earth. However, it is impossible for us to reach this. Socialist countries were content to apply a revolutionary program, and despite all this, the masses destroyed this system, all political parties and governments, because the masses refuse to be governed by other individuals even if they promise them paradise.

On the 13th anniversary of the establishment of the first jamahiriyah in the world and the creation of the masses state on Libyan soil inside the Arab heartland, the gate of the Mediterranean, the sea of civilizations and the great sea, we call on people to speed up opening the way for the masses marching toward authority. The traditional and fading tools of power should not cling to their position. They should not waste further time because the era of the masses is inevitable, it is rousing emotions, and it is opening eyes. The masses will undoubtedly reach power; the jamahiri system will reign everywhere.

The workers should immediately take control of factories and become partners in production so that strikes and sit-ins can come to an end, and so that productivity will not be affected. The basic factor behind world crisis is due to the capitalist system that forces the workers to relinquish their productivity in return for a meager salary which represents a fraction of what they have produced. Workers should become partners; productivity should not be undermined once again, because the capitalist economic system, as it is, is likely to plunge us into another periodic economic crisis, and this would reflect negatively on the whole world. However, if the system of partners were to be set up, there would not be a new economic crisis. [passage omitted]

It is not mandatory for Arabs to hold a passport or a certain amount of money to visit Libya. We announce that we do not recognize foreign currency from Arabs [as heard]. We accept any Arab curreny and we send our national currency to Arab countries. What we call for today—and we have had official talks on this issue with our brothers in Egypt, Tunisia Algeria, Moroco, and Sudan; that is, those who have artificial borders with Libya—is that citizens should move freely from Libya to these Arab countries, and Arab visitors could come to Libya freely and leave it without having to pay customs duties; they should not be questioned on currency or the goods bought. Visitors should be treated as if traveling between Alexanuria and Matruh, between Tubruq and

Banghazi, between Sfax and al-Zawiyah, between Darfur and al-Kufrah, between Ayan Amalanas and Ghdames or Sabha.

The same commodity that moves inside Algeria should also move inside Libya. What moves inside Egypt should also move inside Libya and should spread into Sudan, Tunisia, etc. Local currency should be recognized without any prior agreement between banks. If an Egyptian citizen comes into Libya with Egyptian pounds he should be able to buy anything from Libya. When a Libyan citizen goes to Egypt he should be able to use the Libyan dinar as if he were using Egyptian currency. There is no harm from Egyptian currency being brought into Libya; Libyans can take it back into Egypt and buy things from Egypt with it. Libyan currency taken into Egypt can be brought back by an Egyptian citizen who can buy whatever he wants from Libya with it.

We said the movement of a citizen and his agricultural and industrial production as well as his livestock should be free to move without any hindrance at all. However, public production, i.e. state production such as steel, iron ore, oil, earth [as heard], cement, and all other projects owned by the state which can be imported and exported between any two Arab countries should be subjected to agreements and the needs of each country. On the other hand, they should also be integrated. Central Arab planning should be created to integrate production and projects and allow the movement of workers, engineers, and raw materials from one plant to another inside the unified Arab region. All the aforementioned were included in the Libyan project for an Arab union at the Arab summit in Casablanca. It was endorsed then and it is now part of the Arab League's Charter. I hope its implementation will not be delayed any longer.

We announce here that we will welcome any Arab brother. We are not afraid to open our borders to million of Arabs. Former regionalist Arab rulers were afraid of the masses [jamahir] and they were the ones who consecrated these borders; they were afraid that winds would blow across from one Arab country to another. We, however, have no such fear from the masses. This is the state of the masses. There is no governmental system here that is afraid it might lose power if it opens its doors. Any Arab citizen who wishes to join his brother Arab citizen in Libya can do so. Anyone with ideas should come and tell us about it. If he has a political party in his country—a party is based, of course, upon ideas and power in Libya, has gone beyond the idea of parties, and is in the hands of all the people—he should then come with such ideas and put them forward before the the people who can, if they choose, endorse them. We call upon any party or political movement in the Arab homeland to bring in its ideas and implement them in Libya.

It is not possible, of course, to create any parties because the Libyan system is beyond partisanship; it is a jamahiri system, the system of people's congresses and committees [words indistinct] and exercise of power by all people and not merely a monority through a party. The partisanship experience is also in its death throes. The masses look quickly beyond the era of parties as the party system is merely a delay of the historical solution of the world's political system. From our free land the opening of the borders we have been talking about has begun; borders were removed and prisons were pulled down and abolished. Restrictions on citizens' movement inside and outside the country were lifted. I have sent messages to the world's leaders calling upon them to follow the Libyan example and free all prisoners, remove borders, and lift restrictions on people's movement. This call was heeded and thousands of people were freed. For my part I have sent messages of congratulations and appreciation to those leaders who positively responded to such a call.

People began to think about lifting all restrictions. Korea thus began to lift the restrictions imposed on its people. The breaking of restrictions between South and North Korea has begun. China began to lift the restrictions on its people. People in Albania have begun to demand the implementation of what is taking place in Libya. [passage omitted]

Regrettably, on the basis of existing data, I see the world on the verge of another difficult stage, and not a period relaxation as they believe. Because the arrangements of World War II have been removed, albeit by the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and the arrangements of World War II are being invalidated, this means that the Third World is on the way.

The unity of Germany will not remain mere German unity. If Germany has vital space in Europe, and if this is natural, it will impose itself against the wish of all. [passage omitted]

What is useful to us as Arabs is that the Jewish state that was established unjustly and aggressively on our soil may lose its importance in the coming changes. We must emphasize that it was part of the World War II arrangements that should be reconsidered. In defiance of Hitler a state was built for the Jews in Palestine. Since what had been established in defiance of Hitler was invalidated, the establishment of the Jewish state in Palestine should be reconsidered. This is the argument we will be making from now on.

What is happening now is action against the Jews: Why is Russia expelling the Jews to Palestine? Are they Palestinians? No! Are they Arabs? No! Are they Oriental? They are Caspians, one of the tribes of Russia and the Soviet Union. Why is Russia expelling them? The Arabs do not know them, their fathers, and forefathers. Why cannot 4 million Palestinians go back to Palestine, from where they were expelled yesterday? How can a Jew return, saying I have a right stated in a religious, and perhaps a mythical, 5000 year-old book? Only Arab weakness makes this lie or falsification pass as though it is the truth. [passage omitted] Why are they forcing the

Jews to go to a country which is not theirs and which they do not know at all and have no desire to be in?

The United States passed a law preventing Soviet Jews from emigrating to the United States. This forces them to go to Palestine. This is a U.S. invasion of Palestine, an Arab land. It promised them billions to build settlements in Palestine and promised to arm the against the "uncivilized, barbaric" Arabs should they be attacked. The United States denies human rights and violates human rights in the ugliest form at home, as the U.S. citizens does not enjoy the right to his sweat, work, or self-determination. Is there any place in the world where sacred human rights are violated more than in the United States? The United States discriminates between blacks and whites as if blacks chose to be black. They were created by God and by nature, if the United States does not believe in God. What is the crime of blacks? The United States exterminates red Indians and takes the land of their grandfathers. It despises blacks and writes signs. There are signs in the United States saying: Prohibited to blacks and dogs, Blacks and dogs are prohibited to enter this place. Despite all this, it boasts that it defends human rights. This is a proof of an invasion of the world. [passage omitted]

Naturally, serious reports are in front of me that say briefly that in the next 30 years the countries of the north will be inundated by the sea and millions of people will migrate toward the south. They say also that many parts of the United States and Europe will become deserts and Holland and Bangladesh will disappear from the map completely because they will be submerged by the sea. These reports are scientific and on the basis of this the United States, not the United States but U.S. intelligence, set up a committee of scientists to examine the fate of the world for the next 100 years. This report, which is very bad, says that the world will change completely in the next 100 years and the United States and Europe will become a desert and will freeze [as heard]. It says the Arab region and the temperate northern area will become the best regions in the world. Consequently, the United States wants to define its destiny for the next 100 years.

The report says, however, is is possible that in the next 30 years countries situated on the coast will disappear and the sea will rise by six meters. This means all the coastal countries will be inundated by water and they will inevitably migrate toward us. The aggravation of the situation of the capitalist system leads to this. If East Europe becomes capitalist, it will also look for raw materials and markets and will ally itself in a new imperialist campaign if, God forbid, it adopts this path. If they continue to gather refugees this way, the Israelis will have nothing in front of them apart from war and the establishment of a state from the Euphrates to the Nile. This leads to a battle over water. It is enough to make this brief mention, i.e. the United States has set up an institute for strategic and international studies. The institute made a report that says that the Middle East region will face a crisis related to natural resources.

Before the end of the current century—sorry, the 21st century—the conflict on the limited and threatened water resources might lead to disturbed relations between the countries of the region, and might lead to the escalation of disturbances within this region, perhaps to the extent of armed conflict.

There is a U.S. institute that says that during the 21st century, the Middle East region will be exposed to wars among its countries. The job of the researchers who prepared this study was to find a strategy to protect and consolidate U.S. interests in the region.

Imagine! To consolidate and protect U.S. interests in the Middle East region! This means that the water in the Middle East has a relation with U.S. interests!

Many of us are naive. Perhaps 99 percent of the inhabitants of the Arab region are naive. If they were told that the United States is interested in the water in this region and consider that it has a relation with its interests, they might laugh. What has the United States got to do with water of this region? The United States is interested, and has directed its institutes and experts to protect and consolidate its interests in the region. This report is addressed to the decisionmakers in the United States. This report is prepared by Americans.

With the continuation of this crisis, many of the U.S. Government officials and organizations participated seriously in this study. They participated with their time and opinions, and these efforts were appreciated. See how the experts thank the officials of the U.S. Government, the U.S. (?Presidents), and the U.S. representatives for seriously studying this issue! Their skills and farsightedness in establishing these programs are a source of pride for the United States. O Arabs, see how the United States is planning for your region, and for the rest of the Third World people!

In one region—and I am only reading small pieces of paper—they are talking about the basin of the Jordan River. The circumstances will be difficult. By this I mean that the Israelis will expand; they definitely will impose war. Peace with the Israelis is nothing but an opportunity to prepare for war; this is how they see it, even if we were serious about peace. Actually, Egypt is serious about peace with the Israelis, and I found this out myself. All the Arabs in the Casablanca summit were serious about peace, but this was not met except by opportunism by the Zionist enemy. This was an opportunity to deceive the Arabs using peace, the peace process, so that Israel prepares the emigrants and the weapons to establish Greater Israel. By the year 2000, the situation will be difficult in the basin of the Jordan River. This is what the U.S. study said. The Israeli need for water will increase by 30 percent. Naturally, they are telling Israel, while Jordan will be suffering a shortage of approximately 30 percent. At the same time, the quality of the surface and underground water supplies is deteriorating rapidly. By 1995 a critical stage will have been reached in the exploration and exploitation of nonrenewable

resources. This is in addition to the increase in the salt levels in the Yarmuk and Jordan Rivers.

This is a quick report. It says that by 1995 Jordan and Israel might reach a war simply over water—nothing to do with pan-Arabism or dignity or anything else, or Palestine or Acre or Haifa, or whatever they were saying before. War is definitely coming because of water. Jordan and the Arabs will be forced to go to war because of drinking water, not because of their pride.

It is a matter of life and death. When we said it is a conflict over existence rather than borders, there were some people who wondered. They said secure and recognized borders would solve the problem. Here, see for yourselves! They secured and recognized the borders with Israel, but Israel said no, there is still (?the water); we want it inside our land, and we do not have a place for the emigrants. They started to put them in our land. It is a conflict for existence: either you or me. Also, the level of water in the Dead Sea will go down, and the available water for irrigating the project of the East Bank of the Jordan River will be decreased. [passage omitted]

What is the conclusion of these facts? It means confrontation or death. See, the U.S. State Department is interested, not in their waters, but in ours! [passage omitted]

Look at the task of the U.S. Embassies in Amman and Tel Aviv. It is to discuss the problems of water between Jordan and the Israelis. Their embassy in Tel Aviv also does the same thing. This the first time that we hear that it is the task of the U.S. Embassy in Jordan to examine the water problem in that region and the effect it will have on the Israelis. No one told us about this until the Americans wrote this report, and blessed be the brothers who gave it to us. I will not name them so that we will get more reports. [sounds of laughter] The report says generally those embassies were only interested in the political dimension of the problem, not the economic dimension. See, they are interested in the political dimension of water. What will its consequences be? It is not important whether this country will starve or not, be thirsty or not, but what the political consequences will be. [passage omitted]

The report confirms—and this is the important point—that any encroachment on the waters of the Nile basin will have an extreme effect on Egypt in the future. And this lies behind the Americans' and the Israelis' drive for a presence south of Egypt. The movement in southern Sudan is part of this scheme. Control of Uganda during the days of Milton Obote, who was toppled by Idi Amin, was part of this. Why did the West oppose Idi Amin? Because he expelled the Israelis. Otherwise, Idi Amin was like any other Latin American dictator who enjoys direct U.S. military support. The United States supports fascist dictatorships, even in the Arab world. How many times has it supported very backward regimes? Sectarian, tribal, family regimes—the United States supports them all. Is it because they are democratic? It is because they are in the orbit of America. [passage omitted] The only good thing Idi Amin did was to expel the Israelis. He expelled them from Uganda. And we saw Uganda after he had expelled the Israelis. They used to control everything. They used to control Lake Victoria, the source of the Nile. They used to control an important dam whose name is—does anyone know the dam in Uganda? Its name has several j's and n's [Jinja]. That is it. Here you are, you know it. The Israelis used to control it. It was possible for them to blow it up. Had they done so, Egypt and the Sudan would have been drowned. And if they hold back water in that region, Sudan and Egypt will feel the shortage.

The struggle taking place now in the Horn of Africa and in southern Sudan is over control of the Nile sources. The objective in the end is Egypt. I have said it many times: Be certain that the main enemy of the Israelis is Egypt. The Israelis, no matter how much peace they make with Egypt, consider Egypt the source of danger to them. Egypt is aware of this and the Israelis work night and day in order to find a way to defeat Egypt. They consider this peace with Egypt a truce in order to prepare for the defeat of Egypt, and take the Nile. [passage omitted]

Libya is situated on a water lake that stretches to Chad, Sudan, and Egypt, and this reality could remain for a million years. All topical and summer rain in Africa falls in this lake. The great man-made rivers you may build would equal one drop in the sea as far as this lake is concerned, which stretches to south of al-Jajhbub to al-Sarir, Jajarhu, Lake Chad to the west of Sudan, and the Nile in Egypt. This is not a lake, this is in fact a sea. [passage omitted]

Libya is capable of accommodating millions of Arabs. We used to worry only about the four million who live there, but now we call on millions of Arabs to come to this land immediately and to use these deserts from (Al-Sara), (Al-Wadi), and Ghat to Al-'Uwaynat. This is unused land that has pure water.

Recently, three giant oil fields were discovered. Libya possesses a lake of water, oil, and gas. This is good news; we are happy to announce it on this anniversary. However, at the same time this fact carries with it some danger. As long as the world is fighting over water, and as along as Western Europe and the United States remain capitalist countries searching for markets, raw materials, water resources, and solar energy, they want to dispense of their pollution, snow, and the North Pole, which is being threated by the sea. We should be prepared to fill in the vacuum and turn weakness into strength by implementing Arab unity immediately. Any Arab leader or regime that obstructs Arab unity should be removed mercilessly. [applause] In this connection, we would like to salute the recent Arab efforts which were translated into the formation of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union.

Brothers, I do not want to sound pessimistic, but I would like to call attention to the fact that there is danger. On the other hand, there is great potential for facing up to this danger. We should not be fooled that there is a detente. We agree, there is a temporary detente between the United States and the Soviet Union, but it is only temporary. However, as far as we are concerned, there is no relaxation, neither between us and the Israeli enemy, or between us and other ambitious quarters. [passage omitted]

The preachers of Arab regionalism are falling; the regionalists are trying to divide this homeland into fences and factions, and support the filthy backward regime of tribalism. They are squandering the potential of this homeland for the sake of colonialism, for our sworn enemies, who are the United States and Israel. The United States has enslaved these preachers of regionalism and their wealth. How did the United States come to use Arab money to enslave the Arabs? The Arabs cannot handle their money freely because the United States threatens them by using the money deposited in U.S. banks. An Arab deposits all his wealth in U.S. banks and consequently the United States controls his fate, instead of his controlling the fate of the United States. This is a farce.

We will disclose all these weak points to the masses of the Arab nation. We will instigate them to march forward and remove all borders. The day is drawing nearer! May the struggle continue! [applause, slogans]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Leaves for Libyan Visit 1 Mar

EA0203140090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman, left this afternoon for the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, on a visit that will last several days. He is accompanied by Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, RCC member, and Colonel Yusuf 'Abd-al-Fattah, deputy commissioner of the national capital, and a popular delegation comprising representatives of the popular committees of the capital and the regions, and delegations of the national dialogue conference on peace issues and women's affairs.

In a news statement at the airport, Lt. Gen. 'Umar said the visit is in response to the invitation from our Libyan brothers to participate in the General People's Congress in Libya and consolidate work between the popular committees in Sudan and the General People's Congress in Libya. [passage omitted]

Comments on 'Integration Accord'

EA0403113790 Khartoum SUNA in English 0908 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Mar 4 (SUNA)—Sudan and Libya reached an agreement of integration between them which will be effective as soon as it is ratified by the legislative authorities in the two countries, announced chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir yesterday.

Speaking to reporters at Khartoum airport upon his return from Libya, Gen. al-Bashir said the "declaration of integration between Sudan and Libya has been formulated" and it will be effective once it is ratified by the legislative circles in the two countries.

The RCC chairman said that the integration agreement covers political, economic, cultural, and security spheres, adding that institutions for the integration would be formed. These institutions includes a supreme body, a ministerial body and a secretariat-general, he explained.

The two sides have agreed on a project for the unification of the popular committees in the two countries, the RCC chairman said, noting that they will be developed into legislative organizations.

Gen. al-Bashir announced that Sudan had decided to open its borders before the Libyan citizens who will be able to enter Sudan without entry visas. The Sudanese people and all Arabs enjoy the same privilege as regards entering Libya, Gen. al-Bashir noted. [passage omitted]

Agreement Reached With UN on Emergency Relief

EA0203203090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman, has reiterated the Sudanese Government's adherence to its commitment to the famine-affected people in the south and to the resumption of Operation Lifeline according to the basis agreed upon. These include the guarantee of impartiality of humanitarian aid, and facilitating secure corridors.

This emerged when Lt. Gen. 'Umar yesterday met Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Farah, under secretary of the UN secretary general. Mr. Farah conveyed to the RCC chairman a message from Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, concerning the UN's efforts in the relief field. During the meeting, there was a discussion was held on providing an instant resumption of the second phase of Operation Lifeline, which aims to provide relief to the drought victims in the south. Mr. Farah reiterated the UN's readiness to support humanitarian efforts by providing relief to the people in Sudan.

Thus, it was agreed to dispatch immediate emergency relief supplies by light aircraft to the areas most affected

areas, while relief to other areas will follow after the UN and Sudanese Government determine their actual needs. The meeting also discussed the arrangements for the resumption of the second phase of the relief operation and the subject of (?exchange rates) concerning the organizations working in relief field. The meeting also touched on the subject of a (?train) [word indistinct] which is now in [placename indistinct] town and which is supposed to move on to Bahr al-Ghazal. An agreement was reached to send relief to Juba from Malakal. It was also agreed that UN technicians working for the Sudanese Government should embark at once on [words indistinct] the procedures designated for the resumption of the second phase of Operation Lifeline.

Government Convoy Reaches Juba From Malakal

EA0403163390 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] This morning Juba received the Soldier of the Single Homeland [Jundi al-Watan al-Wahid] forces coming from Malakal under the command of Brigadier Amin Qasim. Receiving these forces was Lieutenant General Ishaq Ibrahim 'Umar, the chief of staff; Lieutenant General Hasa 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali, deputy chief of staff for operations; the Equatoria Region commissioner, Major General Allison Magaya; and His Excellency the commander of the [word indistinct] military zone.

The Soldier of the Single Homeland forces staged a demonstration march in Juba led by Lt. Gen. Ishaq Ibrahim 'Umar, who (?flew in) to Juba in the early morning to receive these forces in the streets of Juba.

Israeli Arms Supplies to Rebels Viewed

JN0303144590 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 1 Mar 90 pp 1, 21

[Text] Paris—A ranking African official has said that Israel recently supplied rebels in southern Sudan with a new shipment of heavy combat weapons and hardware, including guns, U.S.-made anti-aircraft Stinger rockets, mortar and field guns of several types, anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mines, various artillery shells, ammunition, small and medium transmitters, and anti-armored rockets.

The African official asserted that this is the first time Israel has supplied rebels in southern Sudan with modern weapons, including surface-to-air Stinger rockets and large quantities of shells and ammunition. He added this indicates the rebel forces are preparing to launch a new military offensive against the Sudanese Army in the north.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Appoints New Government

LD0303181390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] The Presidency has issued the following statement: President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has reshuffled his government with the following results:

Hamed Karoui: prime minister
Chadli Neffati: minister of justice
Mohamed Jeri: minister, director of the Presidential Office
Habib Boulares: minister, private adviser to the president of the Republic
Ismail Khelil: minister of foreign affairs
Abdallah Kallel: minister of national defense
Abdelhamid Escheikh: minister of interior
Mohamed Ghannouchi: minister of economy and finance
Mustapha Nabli: minister of planning and regional development
Nouri Zorgati: minister of agriculture
Mustapha Bouaziz: minister for state properties
Ahmed Friaa: minister of equipment and housing
Ahmed Smaoui: minister of transport
Mohamed Jegham: minister of tourism and handicrafts
Sadok Rabah: minister of telecommunications
Mohamed Charfi: minister of education, higher education, and scientific research
Ahmed Khaled: minister of culture and information
Daly Jazi: minister of public health
Moncer Rouissi: minister of social affairs
Tahar Azaiz: minister of vocational training and employment
Hamouda Ben Slama: minister of youth and childhood
Tawfik Cheikhrouhou: secretary general of the government
Ali Chebi: secretary of state attached to the prime minister in charge of religious affairs
Habib Ben Yahia: secretary of state attached to the foreign minister
Mohamed Amamou: secretary of state attached to the foreign minister in charge of Maghrebian affairs
Mohamed Larbi Mahjoubi: secretary of state attached to the interior minister in charge of national security
Mohamed Saad: secretary of state attached to the interior minister in charge of localities
Mouldi Zouaoui: secretary of state attached to the minister of economy and finance in charge of industry and commerce
Mohamed Haj Ali: secretary of state attached to the minister of economy and finance in charge of finance
Habib Lazrag: secretary of state attached to the minister of economy and finance in charge of energy and mines
Mohsen Boujbal: secretary of state attached to the minister of agriculture
Ameur Horchani: secretary of state attached to the minister of agriculture in charge of water resources

Mohamed Ali Boluleyman: secretary of state attached to the minister of equipment and housing in charge of housing and urban planning
Sadok Chaabane: secretary of state attached to the minister of education, higher education, and scientific research in charge of higher education and scientific research
Mongi Bousnina: secretary of state attached to the minister of education, higher education, and scientific research in charge of education
Hedi Grioui: secretary of state attached to the minister of culture and information in charge of information
Hedi M'henni: secretary of state attached to the minister of public health
Mrs. Nabiha Gueddana: secretary of state attached to the minister of social affairs

The Presidency has furthermore issued the following statement: President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali has appointed Mr. Mohamed Beji Hamda as governor of the Central Bank.

Tunisian-Saudi Joint Committee Session Held

Economic Talks Underway

LD0103214390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] The proceedings of the third session of the Tunisian-Saudi joint committee, which will be held on 1 and 2 March, opened in Tunis this morning under the co-chairmanship of Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi, the [Tunisian] minister of planning and finance, and Shaykh Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, the Saudi minister of finance and national economy. During this session, which falls within the framework of the commercial and economic committee and the committee for technical and scientific cooperation, the two sides will discuss ways and means to bolster bilateral cooperation, particuarly in the field of commercial and economic exchanges and joint investments in the industrial, agricultural, and tourist domains.

The proceedings of this third session are marked by the participation of a significant number of senior officials in the two governments, representatives of joint enterprises, and many businessmen and investors from the two countries.

In his opening address, Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi highlighted the importance of this meeting which represents an excellent opportunity for consolidating cooperation between the two countries and defining the new moves which the two sides will strive to make following the path of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the servant of the two holy places, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and also in keeping with the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples.

He indicated that bilateral cooperation had already made crucial and positive steps in all fields, especially after President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which gave a strong boost to cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the economic field. He added that this boost was embodied particularly in the signing of a trade agreement which provides for exemption from customs duties and levies affecting agricultural, animal, and mineral products and two lists of industrial goods [as heard]. Moreover, in October 1988 an agreement was signed to exempt the activities of air traffic companies in both countries from duties and levies. Technical cooperation between the two countries was also reinforced, especially in the sectors in which the Tunisians demonstrated their competence and their ability to satisfy the needs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The minister of finance and planning highlighted, in the same context, the dynamic of joint investments, both through the Tunisian-Saudi Investment Company and the joint enterprises which have been created, either in the field of finance, urban planning, tourism or commerce.

Then Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi analyzed the results of the policy of comprehensive economic reforms adopted by Tunisia and which is based on enabling the economic enterprises to acquire the required efficiency and realize the suitable output. This policy is also based on encouraging private intiatives in the field of investment through the introduction of several measures and incentives, especially with regard to tax and finance. He pointed out that the policy of economic reforms also depends on preparing suitable conditions to bolster exchanges and cooperation between the Arab and Islamic countries, in keeping with Tunisia's clear Arab and Islamic orientation after the 7 November change. He added in this respect that this policy had enabled Tunisia to overcome many difficulties and the delicate economic situation which prevailed especially in 1986 and 1987. He went on to say that the Tunisian economy, despite adverse climatic conditions, achieved positive results in 1988 and 1989. Private investments in Tunisia also witnessed a good start on sound foundations, notably in the industrial and tourist sectors following the drop [in investments] between 1980-1987.

Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi concluded his address by expressing the hope to see this third session of the joint committee reach positive results which would give a strong boost to cooperation in the fields of commercial exchanges, technical cooperation, and investments, especially in the light of the pioneering experiment launched by the Saudi businessmen in Tunisia and thanks to the suitable climate existing since 7 November.

Joint Committee Meeting Ends

LD0203152890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1050 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Tunis, 2 Mar (SPA)—The Saudi-Tunisian joint committee for economic and trade cooperation concluded its third session in Tunis today by signing the minutes of its meetings, which last for two days.

The minutes were signed by Saudi Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, and Tunisian Minister Planning and Finance Mohamed Ghannouchi.

Concluding the committee's work, Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi praised the spirit of positive cooperation and fraternity between the two countries which was prominent during the work of the committee.

The Tunisian minister expressed his country's pride in the positive results of the joint investments, pointing out that they are among the means and tools that will lead to developing the joint interests of the two countries.

The Tunisian minister of planning and finance praised the achievements of the committee in the trade field, stressing that the framework drawn up, the contracted agreement, and the joint trade company that was formed indicate that the trade exchanges will witness a leap forward that will rise to the level of the two fraternal countries' aspirations.

Mr. Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, said in his address at the end of the meetings: "I am happy to deputize for the government for the custodian of the two holy mosques in signing the minutes of the meetings of this joint committee." [passage omitted]

The minister of finance and national economy called for working to increase trade exchanges between the two countries, whether through the joint committee or through any other contracts because both the need and ability exist for those exchanges.

He stressed: "Both the government and private sectors in Saudi Arabia want to continue to develop relations with fraternal Tunisia and to diversify them in all fields, especially trade." [passage omitted]

President Receives Saudi Minister

LD0203144790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received this morning at the presidential palace in Carthage Shaykh Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, Saudi minister of finance and national economy. The Saudi minister expressed appreciation for the honor bestowed upon him by meeting with the president. [passage omitted]

Concerning the activities of the Saudi Development Fund, its chairman, Shaykh Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, said that the fund is currently contributing to the financing of eight projects under construction, in addition to a large number of projects which have already been completed. These projects cover numerous fields, such as transport, agricultural development, and others. He pointed out that other projects are under study. He said the activities of the fund in Tunisia are continuing and will expand in the future.

Muslim Fundamentalist Students Demonstrate

LD0103204390 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Tunisian fundamentalist students have demonstrated today in the capital, Tunis, to demand the release of their colleagues arrested during the previous demonstrations. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Shaykh Sa'd on Plans To Revive Parliament

LD0503094790 Kuwait KUNA in English 0827 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, March 5 (KUNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah has announced the return of Parliament is imminent, two Kuwaiti dailies reported Monday.

Quoting a group of former deputies who attended last Saturday's meeting with Shaykh Sa'd, daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM indicated that the exchanges during the encounter were very frank [word indistinct] and H.H. paid due concern to the various points of view and opinions.

The deputies said that Shaykh Sa'd spoke of means of reaching a suitable formula that will help further consolidate peace and stability [word indistinct] circumstances that dominated the previous years' experiment.

Shaykh Sa'd said that he will soon confer with the former speakers of the previous national assemblies prior to submitting the outcome of his dialogue with representatives of the different categories of the community to H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, who is the only one who has the final word in this matter, the ex-parliamentarians added.

Meanwhile, daily AL-QABAS quoted Shaykh Sa'd as saying that he was in support of an elected Parliament that not only monitors but also controls. It added that H.H. affirmed that the current contacts regarding revival of the Parliament were not to procrastinate but rather aimed at coming up with an integrated study that will be presented to H.H. the amir.

AL-QABAS added that Shaykh Sa'd stressed, in a three-and-a-half-hour meeting, that presence of the assembly is in the government's interest and "its absence is harmful." Shaykh Sa'd added that the principle of restoring the Parliament was agreed upon, indicating that H.H. the amir's address had emphasized that fact.

In a televised speech last January H.H. the amir expressed his personal support for democracy and expansion of people's participation.

Saudi Arabia

Lebanon's President al-Hirawi Arrives on Visit

LD0403120490 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the fraternal Lebanese Republic, arrived at Hafr al-Batin at 1400 today on a visit to the Kingdom. His excellency was welcomed at the airport by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the servant of the two holy mosques.

Meets With King Fahd

LD0403220190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Hafr al-Batin, 4 Mar (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, this evening held a meeting at Hafr al-Batin with the president of the Lebanese Republic, Ilyas al-Hirawi.

The following attended the meeting on the Saudi side: His Royal Highness Prince Salman Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of Riyadh region; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; His Royal Highness Muhamad Ibn-Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of the eastern region; Ibrahim al-'Anqari, the personal adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning; His Excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state, member of the Council of Ministers, and acting information minister, and the escorting minister.

His Excellency Dr. Salim al-Huss, the prime minister; His Excellency Mushin Dallul, the minister of agriculture; Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, the Foreign Ministry's general secretary; and Dr. Dhafir al-Hasan, the ambassador of Lebanon to the Kingdom represented the Lebanese side.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Addresses FNC Inaugural Session

JN0403114890 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0748 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Speech by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, inaugurating the first ordinary session of the eighth legislative term of the Federal National Council (FNC), read on his behalf by Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, personal representative of the president, at the FNC in Abu Dhabi on 4 March]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers, FNC [Federal National Council] speaker, members. God be praised, and in His name we today inaugurate the first ordinary session of the eighth legislative term of your esteemed Council. It pleases me, along with my brother members of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] Supreme Council, to congratulate you on the inauguration of this new legislative term and to affirm to you our appreciation for and pride in the constructive role that your Council has played during the past years. This appreciation and pride also have been earned by the FNC's sincere cooperation with the government with a view to entrenching the foundations of the UAE and securing a better life for its citizens.

Brother FNC members: Your Council convenes today after 18 years have lapsed since the launching of the federation. Throughout this period, the foundations of

the federation have been solidified and its edifice has risen to greater heights. We must recall the past so we can draw lessons from past experiences. Besides, we must examine the present to become acquainted with the progress we have made. [passage omitted]

In the domestic sphere, the government continued during the past period to work to secure the basic and necessary commodities for the UAE people in all domains. It also continued to strive to improve the health, educational, security, and defense services. Moreover, this endeavor by the government also sought to improve the services being rendered in the fields of labor, social affairs, electricity, water, agriculture, communications, housing, and Islamic affairs. The government also endeavored to disseminate justice among all and to complete the march of construction in the country. Besides, the government attempted to create new domestic revenues for the UAE with a view to finding new revenue sources. The efforts made to achieve agricultural development in this sphere registered a remarkable development that led to an increase in agricultural production, particularly in the field of fisheries and animal production this year. [applause] [passage omitted]

FNC members, on the Gulf level, our endeavors have not been confined to efforts to realize domestic development. No, we are a member of the one Gulf family and a part of the Arab and Islamic nation. Our strength is derived from theirs. There is no way for us to make progress except through showing solidarity with them. We all form one entity and one family and have a common destiny.

Prompted by a belief embedded within the hearts of the Arab people of the Gulf—that they are bound by ties strengthened by the fact they embrace the same religion, speak the same language, and have the same traditions, security, and common destiny; out of their awareness of the strategic position of the region; and out of a desire to safeguard the region's security and stability—the leaders of the region have sought to realize the aspirations of this people through increasing their coordination and expanding the prospects for multilateral cooperation in all economic, political, security, and military fields.

This coordination and cooperation culminated with the launching of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. The UAE has been participating in the GCC as an effective member state. It has made effective contributions to its activities. It will continue to contribute to its activities and take part in all the meetings conducted by its specialized ministerial committees, whether these meetings concern economic, trade, scientific, security, or defense issues. The UAE has implemented the resolutions adopted by the GCC to achieve progress and prosperity for the peoples of the region.

In addition to this, the UAE is eager to see the GCC play an enhanced role and maintain an effective presence in this changing world through working with all sincerity and honesty to support the GCC and to elevate it to heights that would enable it to serve our peoples, safeguard their stability, strongly link their basic interests, and contribute to their progress and prosperity. The resolutions adopted at the 10th GCC summit conducted in the fraternal Sultanate of Oman in December last year were a culmination of these orientations and a realization of these aspirations. We look forward, with confidence, resolve, and hope, to see the GCC continue to forge ahead along the path of welfare and sacrifices until it achieves its sublime purposes and objectives.

Brothers, our sense of responsibility regarding the security and stability of our homeland and our awareness that this security and stability are linked to security and stability in the Gulf region have prompted us to support all the sincere efforts and endeavors made to end to the Iraq-Iran war, as this war constituted a grave tragedy that squandered all human and material potentials of the two fraternal Islamic states. The continuation of this war, furthermore, entailed risks that put at stake the security of the entire region. We now are satisfied with the peaceful atmosphere that has prevailed in the region since the war stopped, when the two neighboring states responded favorably to the voice of wisdom and reason, thus helping restore peace and security in the region.

We call on all parties to commit themselves fully to implementing the UN Security Council resolution and to respond positively to efforts being made by the UN Security Council to help reach a durable solution that would ensure the legitimate interests of their two peoples, based on Islamic fraternity and good neighborliness. Such a solution must contribute toward the consecration of peace and stability in the region, so the two peoples' attention can be directed toward meeting the challenges of development, construction, and progress.

On the Arab level, the UAE, in its capacity as a part of the Arab nation, is committed to its pan-Arab responsibilities. It views the Palestinian question as the crux of the Middle East conflict. It blesses and supports the valiant Palestinian intifadah and all the Palestinian, Arab, and international endeavors to find a just solution to this fateful issue—a solution that would help the Palestinian Arab people regain their legitimate right to self-determination on their national soil and that also would secure an Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

We in the UAE strongly condemn the Zionist scheme, which aims to bring Jewish immigrants into Palestine, and the attempts being made to settle them in the Arab territories under Israeli occupation, where the Israeli troops perpetrate daily the ugliest acts of oppression, repression, killing, and torture against the unarmed Palestinian people. The Israeli troops there are usurping the legitimate rights of this people. These troops have persisted to flagrantly commit human rights violations and to violate international charters and resolutions to realize their expansionist designs and frustrate all the

international efforts being made to reach a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Out of a belief in the principles of right, justice, and peace, we urge the international community to take a decisive stand to stop the influx of Soviet and East European Jewish immigrants into Palestine, pending attainment of a full-fledged solution to the Palestinian question. The UAE, furthermore, is following with more concern, sadness, and interest this continuous bloodshed and escalating fighting going on in the lands of fraternal Lebanon—the bloodshed and fighting whose victims are the innocent people and children of the Lebanese people. This bloodshed and fighting causes destruction and devastation in this country and gives the Zionist enemy the chance to achieve its objectives.

Regard this, we hail the sincere efforts made by our brother leaders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Morocco, and the Republic of Algeria through the work of the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee, which managed to identify the means to end the bloodshed among the sons of the fraternal Lebanese people and to restore sovereignty, stability, and security to the Lebanese territories. We also pay tribute to the prominent role played by the Tripartite Committee to reach the al-Ta'if agreement, which was endorsed by the representatives of the Lebanese people. We reiterate our backing and support for this agreement, as it is an agreement conducive to the unity and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

In addition to this, this agreement will help safeguard Lebanon's territorial integrity. We appeal to the international community to work to help Lebanon end its ordeal and restore stability to its lands. We also appeal to all Lebanese brothers to unify their efforts to strengthen the legitimate government and consecrate national unity, so Lebanon may return to what it was in the past—a stable, independent, and prosperous homeland—and so it can continue to play its Arab role.

The UAE strongly believes Arab solidarity and cooperation can help the Arabs face up to all challenges and surmount the difficulties and obstacles that stand in the way of the Arab nation. We in the Arab nation, moreover, need now more than ever to make moves to assess the current world changes and to work [applause] according to a new and unified strategy, so we can maintain a special and effective presence amidst a world rocked by changes—a world moving toward the launching of big world groups. The world is on the verge of entering a new era in international relations—an era marked by scientific and economic competition and by big blocs. This era likewise is characterized by speedy developments that cannot allow for any further idleness.

The UAE, aware of these world changes, remains committed to its foreign policy, which emanates from its belief in and strong support for Arab and Islamic issues. This policy also is based on working to bolster the ties of friendship and cooperation with all world states and peoples, based on the principles enshrined in the UN charter and international charters and norms. This policy also is based on efforts to achieve justice and peace to help serve the interests of mankined. We hail the policy of detente prevailing between the two superpowers and call for developing this policy. We also call for scoring further accomplishments in the international arena, provided this detente is not realized at the expense of the interests of small states.

The UAE, moreover, urges the international community establish balanced and just economic ties between the industrialized and developing nations to support the stability of the world economy.

Brother FNC speakers, I have reviewed with you some of the accomplishments scored on our good soil during the past period. We still have numerous tasks and responsibilities toward our homeland, our people, and our nation, howver, that still need to be addressed. We have to continue to work and strive to accomplish them through a determined, sincere effort.

I, along with my brother members of the UAE Supreme Council, pin our hopes on your sincere cooperation with the Council of Ministers to bolster the federation march and realize our people's aspirations. We must work to cultivate and strengthen the sense of responsibility within every individual in this homeland. This must result in seeing every citizen perform his duty and contribute toward upgrading society. Citizens must continue to work to serve the homeland, the welfare of its people, as the Almighty God says: And say: Work righteousness. Soon will God observe your work, and His apostle, and the believers. [part of Koranic verse] May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Yemen Arab Republic

Military Cooperation Minutes Signed With Iraq

JN0303184690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] The concluding session of military talks between our country and fraternal Iraq was conducted today in Sanaa. The two sides were chaired by brothers Staff Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of the General Staff and General Committee member, and Staff General Nizar 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khazraji, chief of the Iraqi General Staff. They signed the minutes of the joint military cooperation meeting.

During the session, the [Yemen Arab Republic] chief of the general staff praised the sincere relations between the two fraternal countries, peoples, and their Armed Forces, which have undergone tangible development during the years proceeding from the determination of the two brother leaders, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Saddam Husayn, to bolster and develop these fraternal and honest relations.

For his part, General al-Khazraji said he was satisfied with and happy about the development he witnessed among the ranks of the Armed and Security Forces in Yemen and the common views discussed on many military aspects. A review of these aspects was made, which culminated with the signing of the military cooperation minutes.

He said: Signing these minutes means new backing for the distinguished relations between the two countries. It affirms how close these relations have become.

Foreign Minister, PRC Counterpart Open Talks

JN0403160390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Official talks between our country and the PRC began this morning at the Foreign Ministry. Our country's side was headed by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ali al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and General Committee member, while the PRC delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. Relations between the two friendly countries and ways of strengthening them were discussed.

The brother deputy prime minister and foreign minister reviewed current unity steps being made by the two parts of Yemen to achieve Yemeni unity. The PRC foreign minister praised these steps and stressed his country's support for Yemeni unity. He also praised the achievements of the Yemen Arab Republic under the security and stability our country enjoys through the leadership of brother leader and president, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Talks then began and dealt with regional and international issues, the leading topic being the Palestinian question, its developments, and the Zionist enemy's continued inflexibility toward achieving a just, comprehensive peace to the Palestinian question. A review also was made of the consequences of the continued immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories, which will add another obstruction to efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The two sides also discussed the situation between Iraq and Iran and efforts to achieve peace; the Lebanese question and its developments, and giving support to the legitimate Lebanese Government; the situation in the Horn of Africa; the Cambodian problem; the Afghan question, and other issues of mutual concern. Views were identical on the majority of these subjects.

Brothers 'Ali Ahmad al-Khadr, deputy foreign minister; Dr. 'Abd-al-Jalil (Thumarah), Foreign Ministry under secretary; Ghalib al-'Abukhi, our country's ambassador to the PRC; and a number of Foreign Ministry officials attended on the Yemeni side, while Ambassador Sun Bigan, deputy director of the [PRC Foreign Ministry] West Asia and North African Affairs Department; Zheng Dayong, PRC ambassador to our country; and other PRC Foreign Ministry officials attended on the PRC side.

Oil Minister Leaves for Kuwait Tripartite Meeting

JN0303110990 Baghdad INA in English 1040 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 3, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim left Baghdad today for Kuwait to attend the tripartite meeting of oil ministers of Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In a statement to INA the minister said that the meeting would come within the framework of consultation and coordination between the three countries concerning oil policy and follow up developments of oil markets in the light of the latest agreement of OPEC that was adopted in its last meeting in November and follow up prices of oil in world markets and the necessity of preserving their stability after the improvement it had seen at the beginning of this year owing to the said agreement.

He added that agreement on holding this meeting was reached during the tour which he made as envoy of President Saddam Husayn to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah amir of Kuwait, pertaining to questions of continued coordination and consultation on oil policy and the big role played by the three countries in the light of world oil reserves and the big productive energies they possess.

The oil minister also pointed out that the meeting would also come as preparation for the ministerial meeting which the eight-man ministerial committee of OPEC, due to be held on 16 instant and to be attended by the rest ministers of the organization. [sentence as received] He said that responsibility for preserving stability of oil markets and improving the level of prices realized through the latest production agreement would not be achieved without the full commitment of OPEC's member states and the positive cooperation of non-OPEC oil producing countries.

Comments on Upcoming OPEC Meeting

JN0403073490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2150 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim returned to Baghdad tonight following a short visit to Kuwait.

In a statement to INA, the oil minister said that he attended in Kuwait a tripartite meeting with the oil ministers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to coordinate the stands of the three Arab states for the meeting due to be held by the OPEC oil-producing states in Vienna on 16 March.

The minister added that the Kuwait meetings were marked by a complete convergence of views prompted by a desire to support the OPEC [word indistinct] and achieve market stability in a manner that would serve the interests of the oil-producing states.

King Fahd's Envoy Hisham Nazir Arrives 3 Mar

JN0303203190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Mar (INA)—Hisham Nazir, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral resources and personal envoy of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to his brother President Saddam Husayn, arrived in Baghdad this evening. He was received at the airport by officials from the Foreign and Oil Ministries and by the Saudi charge d'affaires.

Delivers Message to Saddam

JN0403100890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from his brother King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, concerning fraternal relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the Arab arena.

The message was delivered by Shaykh Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and personal envoy of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to President Saddam, while he was received by the president this morning.

The meeting was attended by Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim and the Saudi charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Departs Baghdad 4 Mar

JN0403154990 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Mar

[Text] Shaykh Hisham Nazir, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral resources and personal envoy of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz to his brother President Saddam Husayn, left Baghdad today. He was seen off at the airport by Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim and the Saudi charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

King Husayn Holds Talks With Saddam, Departs

JN0303180690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal of Jordan arrived in Baghdad at noon today. His majesty was accorded an official reception. [passage omitted]

President leader Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal held a round of talks during which they took up the results of the Arab Cooperation Council summit meeting, as well as developments in the Arab arena. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal left Baghdad this evening at the end of his short official visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

PRC Foreign Minister Meets With Saddam

JN0303180890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has received a written message from PRC President Yang Shangkun on relations between the two friendly countries. The message was conveyed to the president leader by PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who was received by the president leader this morning. The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Comments on Resolution 598

JN0303201390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Mar (INA)—PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has described the peace initiative President Saddam Husayn announced in his historic speech on the 69th anniversary of the establishment of the brave Iraqi Armed Forces as a serious initiative designed to turn the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran into a really peaceful situation expressive of a true desire to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

Speaking to correspondents of INA, Arab and foreign news agencies, and local, Arab, and international newspapers during the news conference he held at the end of his visit to Iraq today, the PRC foreign minister said: We support the UN secretary general's mediation between Iraq and Iran to apply Security Council Resolution 598, which enjoys international consensus.

Qian Qichen pointed out that his talks centered on PRC-Iraq relations, ways to promote cooperation and friendly relations between the two countries, and international changes and their impact on the region. He also stressed the two sides held identical views and that the visit had been successful.

He also explained that his talks with Iraqi officials dealt with the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. He declared that the PRC adopts a clear-cut position on this issue and opposes the immigration because it hampers the Middle East peace process.

The PRC minister left Baghdad for Sanaa at the end of his three-day visit during which he met with President Saddam Husayn. The PRC official also held talks with Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and deputy prime minister, and Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister.

Pakistani Minister of State for Defense Arrives

JN0303192290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, Pakistani minister of state for defense, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon at the head of a delegation on an official visit to Iraq lasting several days. In a statement to INA, the Pakistani minister said that during his visit, he will convey the greetings of the Pakistani president, government, and people to President leader Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi Government, people, and brave Armed Forces. He added he would also discuss with Iraqi officials ways to promote bilateral cooperation. He was received at the airport by Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal and the Pakistani ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With Saddam

JN0403141890 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 4, INA—President Saddam Husayn today received in audience Pakistani defence minister, Ghulam Sarwar Cheema.

During the audience, the Pakistani minister conveyed to his excellency greetings from President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of Pakistan and Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto and their wishes for the progress and prosperity of the Iraqi people.

President Husayn asked the Pakistani minister to convey his good wishes to the Pakistani president and prime minister.

During the audience attended by General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of defence, bilateral relations between the two countries were discussed.

Iraqi-Bangladesh Joint Committee Meets 3 Mar

Joint Economic Meetings Begin

JN0303160090 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 3, INA—Two-day meetings started here today by the Joint Iraqi-Bangladesh Committee for Technical and Economic Cooperation. It was reported here that the committee will discuss means of cementing bilateral trade and economic relations and prospects of signing a technical and economic cooperation agreement between the two countries.

Addressing the opening meeting, Mr Samal Majid Faraj, minister of planning and head of the Iraqi side, stressed Iraq's desire in promoting trade and economic relations with Bangladesh and expressed hope that the committee meetings would achieve effective steps towards this end.

Mr Hussain Khan, Bangladesh minister of labour force and head of his country's side also expressed Bangladesh desire in promoting relations with Iraq on all levels.

Saddam Receives Envoy

JN0303185490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Bangladesh President Mohammad Hussain Ershad. The message was handed to Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, by Sirajul Hussain Khan, Bangladesh minister of labor and manpower, in Baghdad today. INA has learned that the message includes President Ershad's greetings to President leader Saddam Husayn, his pride in the brotherly and cordial relations, and Bangladesh's satisfaction with the growing relations with Iraq. The message also highly values President Leader Saddam Husayn's initiatives to bring about a comprehensive and lasting peace.

The first deputy prime minister then asked the Bangladesh minister to convey President Leader Saddam Husayn's greetings to President Ershad, to emphasize his excellency's pride in the existing relations and affirm Iraq's concern about developing and expanding these relations.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to encourage bilateral cooperation in the educational, economic, and trade areas, which are also being discussed by the third session of the Iraqi-Bangladesh committee currently meeting in Baghdad. The meeting was attended by Samal Majid Faraj, planning minister and head of the Iraqi side to the joint committee, and the Bangladesh ambassador in Baghdad.

Minutes, Cooperation Program Signed

JN0403205590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)—Iraq and Bangladesh this evening signed the minutes of the third session of the Iraqi-Bangladesh joint committee for the next three years. The minutes, which were signed for the Iraqi side by Samal Majid Faraj, planning minister and head of the Iraqi side in the committee, and for the Bangladesh side by Sirajul Hussain Khan, Bangladesh minister of labor and manpower, stipulate that economic and trade relations as well as commodity exchange be promoted in order to increase the volume of the trade exchange between the two countries.

Iraq and Bangladesh also signed a program for cultural, scientific, and educational cooperation. The program states the need to promote relations between the universities of the two countries, exchange teachers, conduct joint researches, and exchange educational programs, exhibitions, cultural activities, and television programs in both countries.

The program was signed for the Iraq side by the under secretary for the Higher Education and Scientific Research Ministry and for the Bangladesh side by the Bangladesh ambassador in Baghdad.

Paper Decries Secret 'Syrian-Zionist Contacts'

JN0203122890 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 2, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad said that the direct and indirect secret contacts between Hafiz al-Asad regime and the Zionist entity were unveiled by all those who secretly negotiated the Zionist entity in the foreign capitals and they were entrusted with by head of Syrian regime Hafiz al-Asad. [sentence as received]

In its commentary published today, the paper referred to what was published by the diplomatic, political and media sources on the clandestine talks held recently between the Syrian regime and the Zionist entity in Vienna, since the acceptance of the secret contacts and negotiations had certain meanings and significance, among which, the recognition of the existence of the other party and preparedness to deal with its conditions and ideas.

The paper added when the contacts and negotiations were shrouded with secrecy, they would follows the illegitimate black-mail and secret and dangerous conspiracy, particularly with an enemy such as the Zionist entity. [sentence as received]

It is certain that the Syrian and Zionist negotiators had discussed several topics, leading of which, the support of the Iranian aggression against Iraq by all available means and potentialities of both sides.

The paper confirmed that the key topic which preoccupys Hafiz al-Asad and the Zionists, is the so-called Syrian-Zionist peace which would confiscate the national legitimate rights of the Arab people and rights of sovereignty and independence of the Lebanese people.

The paper concluded its commentary by calling on the necessity of working by all available means to disclose the Syrian-Zionist contacts and negotiations and their outcomes namely the bestial crimes perpetrated by the Zionists against the Palestinian people and other certain accords and deals.

Swedish Parliamentary Team Leaves Baghdad

JN0403113590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)—The Swedish parliamentary delegation headed by Mr. Hanz Barn Frank [as received], parliament member and representative of the ruling Swedish Social Democratic Labor Party, left Baghdad this morning following a week-long visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Bulgarian Presidential Envoy Leaves Baghdad

JN0203141390 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad—Khristo Khristov, personal envoy of Bulgarian State Council Chairman Petur Mladenov to President Saddam Husayn and adviser to the Bulgarian premier, left Baghdad today. [passage omitted]

Pakistani Trade Minister Leaves Baghdad

JN0103114190 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 1, INA—Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto's personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn, Minister of Trade and Local Government Faisal Saleh left Baghdad today ending a visit to Iraq.

It is to be mentioned that member of the Revolution Command Council and First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan had received a written message addressed to President Husayn from the Pakistani premier during a meeting with the Pakistani envoy here yesterday.

Bush 'Making Mistake' on E. Jerusalem

TA0503063390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Mar 90 p 1

[By David Makovsky]

[Text] A senior government official reacted angrily to remarks made by U.S. President George Bush over the weekend that the U.S. opposes new Jewish housing in East Jerusalem.

"They are making a mistake, it is counterproductive for them. It is one thing if they raise the issue of the West Bank, but once they talk about East Jerusalem, it will upset everyone" on both sides of the political aisle, a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

He indicated that Jewish housing over the Green Line in Jerusalem is one issue that will unite all Israelis against the U.S.

Shamir Rejects Bush Stand on Jerusalem Settlement

TA0503061990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir has rejected the Bush administration's position against settling Soviet Jewish immigrants in Jerusalem. The prime minister was speaking to reporters after addressing an Israel Bonds conference in the capital last night. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] [Essing] Prime Minister Shamir stated unequivocally that Jerusalem is not on the agenda of negotiations with the Palestinians. And, he added, there are no settlements in Jerusalem. Shamir said he wants to bring Soviet Jews to Jerusalem, Israel's capital.

[Shamir] Of course, yes. We want to have as many Soviet Jewish olim [immigrants] in Jerusalem, in Yerushalayim—as much as possible.

[Essing] And, he took issue with the Bush administration's opposition to settling Soviet Jews in Jerusalem.

[Shamir] We don't recognize, we are not making any distinction between West Jerusalem and East Jerusalem. For us there is one Yerushalayim, the capital of Israel.

[Essing] The prime minister was answering reporters questions. Earlier, in his address to the Bonds leaders, Shamir appeared to refer indirectly to Secretary of State Baker.

[Shamir] We appreciate the efforts of international leaders who want to be helpful and move the peace process forward. For them it is another unresolved international dispute; for us it is life and existence. We shall not put our security at risk. No nation can ask of us concessions and sacrifices that they would never make if their own security were at stake. [end recording]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 5 March in a related report by Robert Rees, Sarah Honig, Mikhal Yudelman, and David Makovsky on pages 1 and 8 adds that in his address to the Israel Bonds banquet, Shamir said: "We shall not be party to any action that brings into question the status of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the heart and soul of the entire Jewish people. Jerusalem was united and will never be divided again." Shamir also "said that 'it is not the policy of the government of Israel to direct the immigrants to Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Nor are there special incentives for those who do go there. But if anyone expects me to say that we shall forbid any Jew from going to Judaea, Samaria or elsewhere—I shall never do that.'

["The prime minister added that 'the reference to settlements in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza is only a pretext. The actions and statements by Arab leaders and media prove that it is only a pretext. It is the strengthening of Israel by this aliya that they are fighting. We should therefore make it absolutely clear to everybody that we consider their attacks on Soviet aliya as an attempt to undermine the Jewish state and a threat to peace in the region'."

[In a report by Ze'ev Kohen on the prime minister's address to the Bonds leaders, Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 5 March adds Shamir also said "that he hopes the U.S. secretary of state will reassess and back down from making U.S. aid conditional upon a change in Israel's policy."]

Shamir: No Decisions Under Pressure

TA0403194990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yoram Ronen "a short while ago;" place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has presented the Israeli Government with a question, and he is waiting for an answer. Will this answer be affirmative?

[Shamir] This is not the only question he has posed; there is a series of questions. We currently are engaged in a discussion of these issues, and when we conclude our discussions, we will make decisions of which the U.S. secretary of state will be duly apprised.

[Ronen] Will the decisions be made this week, and are they expected to be endorsed by the Inner Cabinet?

[Shamir] It is hard to say whether it will happen this week or later. After all, these are very important and serious matters that cannot be decided under the pressure of timetables.

[Ronen] I understand from your remarks, Mr. Prime Minister, that the decision may be made next week.

[Shamir] Perhaps. In any event, there is no desire to delay it without reason.

[Ronen] All this despite the Labor Party's request—or demand—that the decision be made by the coming Wednesday [7 March]?

[Shamir] I told you such decisions cannot be made under the pressure of a ticking clock. Issues must be weighed, considered, and calculated, and only then can they be decided.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, do you insist on the condition the Labor Party consent to legislation stipulating new elections in the event of this government's demise and barring the possibility of a narrow-based government headed by the Labor Party?

[Shamir] The Likud ministers have not completed their consultations on the content of the decision and the position they will represent in the Inner Cabinet. After these consultations are completed in the very near future, the conditions, demands, and positions of the Likud Party will become known.

Shamir Not To Raise Reply to Baker at Meeting

TA0403164690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Participants at last night's meeting of the Likud ministers understood from remarks made by the prime minister that he does not intend to raise the issue of the replies to Secretary of State Baker for discussion and resolution at the Inner Cabinet meeting on Wednesday. This was reported by our political correspondent Arye Golan.

The prime minister's bureau said tonight the forum of four is not a forum qualified to decide on moves, and it only is the Inner Cabinet that was vested with such an authority [sentence as received].

Our correspondent further has learned that, so far, the Likud has not completed the discussion and consultations on the U.S. proposals. After these are completed, the prime minister will raise the issue for debate and resolution at an Inner Cabinet meeting.

Peres: Likud Must Decide on Reply by 7 Mar

TA0403162990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] The meeting of the forum of four, comprised of Prime Minister Shamir, Vice Prime Minister Peres, Defense Minister Rabin, and Foreign Minister Arens, ended about one hour ago at the Prime Minister's Office.

Coming out of the meeting, Minister Peres said the Likud must decide by Wednesday, at the latest, on how to reply to U.S. Secretary of State Baker's questions.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports Minister Rabin said, conversely, that as far as he is concerned, the Likud decision can be made either this week or at the beginning of next week. [passage omitted]

Forum of Four Meeting Ends Without Decision

TA0403161690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 4 Mar 90

[By political correspondent Natan Gutman from outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem "following the meeting of the forum of four" on 4 March—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The forum of four convened for less than 45 minutes. The meeting certainly was short, and we still have no details of what was discussed. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is just leaving the building, and we will try and reach him.

[Gutman] Mr. Rabin, how do you view the current political situation? Would you estimate a positive decision to go to the Cairo talks will be taken this week?

[Rabin] Let us discern between hope and certain knowledge. My hope is that a common understanding indeed will be achieved between all components of the national unity government to issue an affirmative response to the formulation conveyed to the Israeli Government, with all the attendant understandings. As far as I know, the Likud ministers have not yet concluded their debate, and therefore, it was not possible to reach a conclusion at today's meeting of the forum of four. In any case, I hope if a Likud ministerial debate is conducted tomorrow—and they will finalize matters—the four of us could meet again, and perhaps even conduct a conclusive Inner Cabinet meeting on the issues this week or at the beginning of next week.

[Gutman] Is this week the last week to make a final decision, or do you see a conclusive resolution possibily being reached even later?

[Rabin] I already have told you I very much hope it will be this week, and if not then, at the beginning of next week.

[Gutman] Do you accept the formula according to which the Israeli decision will be divided into two: a formal and general decision in the Inner Cabinet and a more detailed and covert decision in another forum?

[Rabin] Listen, the problem is not the technical aspects of the decision. The question formally conveyed to the Israeli Government by the U.S. secretary of state is completely clear, as it is clear what this query includes beyond its formal wording. A decision obviously must be based both on the formal question and on the attendant understanding.

[Gutman] To sum things up, sir, you have invested great efforts in the preparations for this moment. Would you be willing, or do you see the possibility of remaining in the national unity government, if it becomes clear there is no peace process in the coming days?

[Rabin] I do not deal in speculation on worst-case scenarios. I still belong to those people who feel that, under the present conditions, the formulation of the query as presented to us by the United States leaves

room for a positive, united response by all the components of the coalition. I believed in the past, and I still hold this opinion—that the peace process can be furthered within the framework of a national unity government. I would like, however, to add we are talking about an additional stage. We must remember the Cairo meeting between the two delegations is another stage whose test will be whether it could enable an agreement on the modalities and framework of the elections in the territories. If this indeed happens, it will be a very significant stage, which in my opinion actually would constitute a breakthrough for implementation of the political process according to the Israeli Government's peace initiative.

[Gutman] This, therefore, is what Defense Minister Rabin has to say. Judging from this, we can discern much less determination than Vice Prime Minister Peres. If we understand his statements correctly, then the Alignment's ultimatum is not limited to this Wednesday [7 March], and a decision at the beginning of next week is possible. At any rate, Rabin agrees to the principle of two decisions; possibly one in the Inner Cabinet and one by the forum of four, a separate answer to the formal query and a separate answer to the understanding, which is the query demanding interpretation.

Labor Party Poses Terms for Decisions

TA0403152990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Labor Party ministers have decided they will be ready to allow the forum of four, rather than the Inner Cabinet, to adopt a resolution providing a reply to the U.S. proposals, on the condition it is made in writing. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports the Labor ministers stressed the resolution must relate to all three points of the U.S. proposal: the inclusion of Palestinians registered in the territories census; inclusion of East Jerusalem residents; and inclusion of deportees in the talks.

It was agreed the Labor ministers in the forum of four will demand the Inner Cabinet convene and resolutions be made this week already. If the Likud rejects all or one of these demands, the Labor ministers forum will convene at once. Our correspondent notes most of the ministers supported these conditions. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who made remarks during the meeting, expressed no objection.

Cabinet Discusses Baker Proposal, Arens' Trip

TA0403123190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Mar 90

[By political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Today's Cabinet session was shorter than usual. Surprisingly, the inclusion of Minister Moshe Qatzav in the Inner Cabinet once again was not discussed. Alignment sources hastened to stress the fact Qatzav as yet has not been nominated to the Inner Cabinet on no account would lead to postponement of the debate and decisions in the Inner Cabinet.

Upon leaving the Cabinet session, the Alignment ministers brushed off with ridicule and contempt the Likud demand from yesterday, according to which the Alignment would promise to stop working for the government's dissolution. They also categorically rejected the idea of delaying taking decisive political decisions for a little while. Here is what Ministers Shim'on Peres and Moshe Shahal had to say:

[Begin recording] [Peres] There is no need to wait. The picture is clear, and we must decide yes or no. The Likud always has accused us of not being able to say yes or no. Sefi Rivlin [a comedian who appeared in Likud election propaganda] made his living from that for many years. Now it has been brought back to his own doorstep.

[Shahal] It is inconceivable, and I would even say silly, to demand the Labor Party, which has shown restraint and seriousness, come out of a political framework which in its entirety acts in contravention of the government's resolutions. It therefore is not only unacceptable, it also is slightly absurd. [end recording]

The Likud meanwhile pointed today to clause 1, subclause 22 of the coalition agreement, which obliges both parties to anchor the coalition agreement in laws that preclude the establishment of a narrow-based government in the event of a breakup.

The Likud, we should reiterate, still is far from a decision, and it still is premature for an unequivocal estimate the Likud has accepted the Baker proposals. This was what Minister Qatzav had to say:

[Begin Qatzav recording] The proposal, in its current form, would not permit me, at any rate, to support it. The Baker proposal does not stand by itself. The U.S. secretary of state's proposals are conditional on quite a few other issues. The Likud therefore certainly has several red lines. [end recording]

The Likud ministerial debate will continue tomorrow. The prime minister, the vice prime minister, and the defense and foreign ministers will convene this afternoon for a political debate. In any case, no decisions are expected today.

The weekly Cabinet debate mostly was dedicated to reports of Foreign Minister Arens' trips overseas. Minister Moshe Shahal criticized Arens for not including Ambassador Arad in his meeting with Baker. Arens replied this case is different from the Weizman incident [when Weizman met Shevardnadze in Moscow in January 1990 without including Israeli representative Levin in the meeting], because there was no U.S. demand not to invite Arad. Shahal replied that makes matters even worse.

Peres also attacked Arens, and asked why Arens did not raise the issue of German reunification in the Inner

Cabinet. Arens replied he had not gone to Bonn to discuss German reunification, but rather Israel's relations with the European market. This was what happened in the weekly Cabinet session, which was slightly dwarfed by the more crucial political forums.

Qatzav: Likud Debate Will Not End This Week

TA0403114190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] The Likud ministers will not complete their deliberations over the reply to Secretary of State Baker's question this week, Minister Moshe Qatzav told our political correspondent Arye Golan.

Qatzav said the Likud ministers will not agree to make a decision while being held at gunpoint and under the threat of an ultimatum when what is at stake is the survival of the State of Israel. Minister Qatzav said the proposal in its present form is unacceptable to him, and he will not support it. Furthermore, he noted, additional clarifications still are needed. Qatzav emphasized the Likud has red lines it will not cross.

Further on Likud Debate Over U.S. Proposals

TA0403073890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 Mar 90

[By political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] It was one of the most serious and thorough debates ever conducted by the Likud—that is how one minister described it. Indeed, the ministers were in session for four hours, and not all of them got to voice their views. It should be pointed out the climate was matter-of-fact and did not reflect the internal tensions in the party, despite of the fact the positions voiced were very poignant. [passage omitted]

The debate was opened by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who said the central question that must be addressed by the ministers is whether or not the decision to be made is good for Israel. Shamir called on his colleagues to make matter-of-fact and balanced decisions, and to ignore the pressures exerted by the United States and the Alignment.

Speaking right after Shamir, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens gave a long review of his talks with Secretary of State Baker. Our initiative has succeeded, and the PLO is out of the process, Arens said. He then proceeded to present the U.S. questions. To recall, the official question speaks of making up a delegation composed of Palestinians listed in the population register of the territories. Attached to it is a question of interpretation stating returned deportees and an inhabitant of the territories who either works or owns a home in East Jerusalem should be included.

Arens said if certain conditions are met, Israel should respond positively to the U.S. proposals. Among other things, he said a law should be legislated preventing the Alignment from forming a narrow-based government in the event the current government is disbanded. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 4 March adds: "Our political correspondent Arye Golan has learned Foreign Minister Moshe Arens himself provided the final wording of Baker's proposal. Baker had intended to ask Israel whether it agrees to inclusion of deportees and inhabitants of East Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation. Arens said if this were the question, Shamir and the Likud ministers would reject it. The two men therefore drafted a question that does not refer to principles, but focuses on the names of the delegation members."]

Ministers Qatzav and Olmert said if it emerges in Cairo that the PLO has joined the process, Israel should demand an end to the deliberations. At this point and at the request of David Levi, Binyamin Netanyahu was given the floor. He spoke assertively in favor of ending the process, saying it has been infiltrated by the PLO. The United States is holding us at gunpoint on one side and the Alignment is holding us at gunpoint on the other, Netanyahu said.

Minister Moshe Nisim said that before agreeing, the Likud should clarify with the Alignment the red lines concerning Jerusalem. Arens elaborated on the issue of East Jerusalem, and Nisim retorted: Excuse me, that is deceitful, and I will not put up with it. Minister Ehud Olmert supported Arens, and David Levi, the chief opponent, said: The red lines we had set are turning green.

Two main problems persist: The Likud is seriously concerned that during the deliberations in Cairo, the Alignment might adopt independent positions, and the Likud might find itself isolated in the face of a front composed of the Palestinians, the Americans, and the Alignment. A specific demand also was raised to make sure the Alignment should stop trying to set up a narrow-based government.

The second problem addressed by the Likud ministers is the question of introducing the PLO through the back door—in other words, fear the Palestinian delegates in Cairo may consult with PLO officials or declare they are the representatives of the PLO. [passage omitted]

Levi Calls U.S. Proposal 'Self-Delusion'

TA0403064190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Telephone interview with David Levi, deputy prime minister and housing and construction minister, by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Minister David Levi.

[Levi] Good morning.

[Qital] According to our reports, you were the most vociferous minister in opposing the U.S. proposal, and

that does not come as a surprise. The question is: Do you see a chance of your position being accepted?

[Levi] According to the reports you received, which I gather are not your own assessment or invention, the game is rigged and the meeting of the Likud ministers yesterday and the one to follow is, in my opinion, nothing but a charade. The seemingly innocent formula includes all the points that only the other day the Likud defined as its red lines. It is a self-delusion brought about by our foreign minister who, I think, did something that is not done. In politics there are issues that not only call for honesty, but also for responsibility. Both qualities now have vanished.

What I am saying is: We propose to the U.S. secretary of state some sort of innocent formula—which will be accepted, so he was told—that includes the following principles: Everything will be coordinated with the PLO, and we will turn a blind eye and play dumb; the representatives from the Palestinian diaspora—look how far things have come, now they are called a diaspora—the so-called deportees, will be accepted as being registered in the population register of Judaea and Samaria; there will be representatives of East Jerusalem with dual residence—all these represent the collapse and surrender of the position upheld by the Likud.

I would expect people to display intellectual honesty—rather than confusion, delusion, and deceit—in view of the importance and responsibility called for these days. If people are ready to accept all those points, they should have the courage to stand up and say there is nothing to be done, this is what we are being offered, and we propose to accept it. Instead, they do not have the guts to tell the truth, they go on spreading confusion, they do not have the courage to make a decision. Amazingly enough, after the failure of our procrastinated and confused efforts to attain assurances from the United States, we now want assurances from the Alignment rather than from the Americans. In other words, we are telling the Alignment the Likud is incapable of sticking to its positions and that the Alignment should undertake to be the Likud, instead of the Likud. I only can describe this situation as the Likud having lost its way.

This deterioration can yet be stopped. I believe those who delude themselves that we will go to Cairo and undermine the talks there are committing a very serious mistake.

[Qital] Mr. Levi, what do you intend to do if your far-reaching conclusions—what you call a rigged game and dictate....

[Levi, interrupting] Sir, I am known for telling the truth. I do not put up any shows.

[Qital] That is fine. What I am asking is: What are you going to do about those conclusions?

[Levi] First, this is not the Likud's position, and such a move required the Likud's approval. The Likud ministers do not have the authority to follow a course that not only is categorically opposed to their statements as Cabinet ministers [words indistinct].

[Qital] So what do you propose? To summon the Likud Central Committee?

[Levi] [words indistinct] to update it because what is happening here is very serious. If, being aware of all these facts, people take a position and a decision—even if, as I say, they conflict with the Likud's ideology—then they would be changing their way. Then it should be made known the Likud no longer stands for what it once did. If we create the illusion the Alignment will give us assurances—with the ridicule such an approach entails—and if we let it be understood we will sabotage the Cairo talks, I think we will be losing control of the government and our ideology. The Likud will be cast as a movement that has lost its way and always belatedly embraces the Alignment's proposals and causes serious damage in the process, and nothing can disguise it. This is a course fraught with mirages [words indistinct]. I am outraged at the attempt to pretend we continue to stick to our positions, because this is not so.

[Qital] I thank you very much, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi. Good morning to you.

PM's Office: No Decision Yet on Baker Response

TA0403060890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0551 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Here is an update on the ongoing political turmoil: The prime minister's bureau wishes to clarify it is not true at this point the Likud ministers are inclined to give a positive response to Baker's proposal. Our political correspondent Arye Golan has been told the debate by the Likud ministers is not yet over, and a decision only will be made tomorrow. All the reports published so far, aides in the prime minister's bureau say, are mere speculation, and all the theories aired in the media still are groundless.

Our political correspondent points out that when the Likud ministers end their debate tomorrow, after the prime minister voices his position, the ministers may conduct a vote on the response to be relayed to the United States.

Alignment Will Not Let Likud 'Drag Its Feet'

TA0403052390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] The Alignment will not let the Likud drag its feet and will insist that both components of the U.S. proposal—willingness to include inhabitants of the territories in the dialogue and the interpretation about home or business owners in East Jerusalem—be put to discussion and vote by the Inner Cabinet.

The Alignment will oppose any decision in a smaller forum, such as the forum of four. Our political correspondent has learned from aides in Minister Peres' office that he will reject the Likud's demand the Alignment undertake to go to elections if the government disbands and will not try to form a narrow-based government.

Likud Ministers Postpone Decision on Proposal

TA0303230590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2245 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Here is the latest update from the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem. The Likud ministers have not concluded their debate on the Israeli response to U.S. Secretary of State Baker's proposals this evening. Continuation of the debate has been postponed until Monday [5 March]. Our correspondents Arye Golan and Yo'el Nir reported this. It was, however, reported that most of the ministers who voiced their opinions during tonight's consultations at the prime minister's home suggested conveying a positive response to the United States.

Minister Levi expressed his opposition. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir still has not stated his position. Foreign Minister Arens said during the meeting that in his opinion, the political process could be pursued, but that the Alignment must agree to legislation calling for the Knesset's dispersal and new elections if the government dissolves.

Paper Lauds Baker Position; Fears Turnabout

JN0303082090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
3 Mar 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "A New American Language"]

[Text] In a remarkable development, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has announced two new positions by the Bush administration. First, the United States holds Israel responsible for any possible failure in Middle East peace efforts, and second, it publicly opposes the provision of any new financial assistance to Israel unless the latter pledges not to use this assistance for building new settlements.

This new diplomatic language, especially setting conditions for funding the accommodation of Soviet Jews, has obviously angered Yitzhaq Shamir's government to the extreme. Israel considers these conditions as obstacles to settling these immigrants in the occupied Arab territories and, consequently, to creating a new scenario that would undermine any efforts toward a just and comprehensive Middle East peace.

Shamir's circles, indeed, have gone so far as to consider Baker's position on funding the accommodation of Soviet Jewish immigrants as a step that would weaken current diplomatic efforts to conduct direct Israeli-Palestinian talks. This indicates a new attempt by Shamir to evade pressure on his government to make a decision that would open the road before the deadlocked peace efforts.

Undoubtedly, this U.S. position is welcomed by all those who for many years have been urging the U.S. Administration adopt a clearer stance on Israel's continuous maneuvers, and who have been warning against the policy of flattery and disregard—the policy that encouraged Shamir to continue turning his back on all peace efforts and overtures.

But [while] we record this positive position announced by James Baker, which throws the peace ball in Israel's court and restricts the provision of new funds to Jewish settlement, we fear the U.S. secretary of state, like previous U.S. secretaries of state, may revise his position after a while, and apologize to Israel and its friends in the Congress for the misunderstanding of his statements.

We, therefore, call upon James Baker to adhere to such positions and develop them in the future. Any potential retraction would destroy any slight progress in the peace process and undermine our little credibility [as published] in the U.S. policy toward this region, whose history is full of lost peace opportunities as a result of the hesitant and shortsighted U.S. policy.

U.S. Speaks 'Two Languages' in Settlement Issue

JN0403151390 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
4 Mar 90 Second Edition p 16

["Frankly Speaking" column by editor in chief Sultan al-Hattab: "An Incomprehensible U.S. Language Concerning Settlements"]

[Text] No one following the declared, official U.S. language on settlements in the occupied Arab territories can understand it.

The U.S. Administration uses two languages when talking about settling and settlements. One of these languages is open-ended and empty of content. It is a pompous language, playing on words, produced by U.S. State Department employees in clerical jobs. From time to time, they repeat or adapt expressions from old or recent speeches to the media so Arabs will see them and believe the United States still considers them friends.

John Kelly used one of these expressions, taken from Secretary of State James Baker's speech to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives on 22 February. In this speech, he said President Bush's Administration affirmed its objection to any settlement activity, especially any settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories or the West Bank.

Kelly's previous statement, set in context, sounded thus: "I am convinced the Arab leadership in general is concerned about settlement in the occupied territories".

The subject was turned around, and became not about Soviet Jewish immigration, but about where the immigrants will live. Even this "where will they will live" issue has come under dispute.

As for the other language, which the United States sells to Israel, it is the language supported by deeds, such as the U.S. announcement it will support the great Jewish settlement project entitled "integrating Jews" in one context, or enabling "the strategic ally to achieve its program" in another, under the motto of "the right of Jewish citizens to emigrate" in a third, and finally, their right to reside wherever they please as long as the territory of Israel is defined through the official Israeli Government's positions, which is a party in the alliance; nay, it is the party that will pay the financial bills of millions of dollars to "build residences."

The term "residences" here can be open to many interpretations: Are they new residences that will be constructed, and if so, where? Are they behind the green line, to the right or left? Or are they in the ready residences inside the colonies that were constructed and left waiting for the emigrants who poured in according to the human rights statement sold for a very high price on the Soviet political stock exchange market.

Finally, will this language be a trap for the Arabs—a trap set since the dispute over interpreting UN Security Council Resolution No. 242?

Or will the United States continue to feed the Arabs empty promises and a language that can be dismantled and reconstructed, like cooking pebbles in water or churning water and waiting for butter?

The issue is greater than language and statements. It is an issue of who creates the active language and who is capable of explaining it and setting it in context. How can one respond to the U.S. gibberish in a comprehensible language based on a capable reality?

Conjugating the U.S. sentence will reveal the following result: The ants' eggs cannot give birth to eagles and the shell of a snake's egg only conceals another snake.

No one, therefore, can scratch the Arabs' back better than the Arabs themselves. So let them take control of their situation.

Only then will flying U.S. messages become clear, respectable, and comprehensible.

Deputies Hold Closed Session on Israeli 'Threats'

JN0403094690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Mar 90 Second Edition pp 1, 13

[By Muhammad al-Malkawi]

[Text] Amman—A deputy has stated the closed session conducted by the House of Representatives yesterday to discuss the statements made by terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister of the Israeli enemy, on the establishment of Greater Israel was characterized by responsibility and mutual confidence between the legislative and executive powers and by full understanding of the serious nature of the Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and the negative repercussions of this on Jordan and the Arab nation.

Replying to a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B, the deputy said the legislative and executive powers exchanged viewpoints and ideas about Jordan's role in confronting this exacerbating danger, emphasizing that never before had the House of Representatives witnessed such quiet, serious, and responsible discussions of a problem worrying Jordan and the Arab nation as was the case yesterday.

He indicated the two powers' realization of the nature of this danger and this critical stage made the areas of coordination and cooperation wider and larger because it would be impossible to overcome the problem without the cooperation and cohesion of the sons of the one homeland in the face of the new danger represented by the Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine and the Israeli leaders' threats to Jordan on establishing Greater Israel.

The deputy said working papers, documents, and speeches were delivered or read in the session. They explained the deputies' concepts and fears vis-a-vis the Israeli danger, which has taken a new form, something which requires the cohesion of all in order to thwart the plot.

The government briefed the deputies on the various issues related to Jewish emigration from the eastern bloc countries to occupied Palestine and the role entrusted to the people of Jordan along the longest frontline with the Israeli enemy, stressing that national unity and solidarity are the main pillar to confront the approaching danger.

Both the government and deputies said that Jewish emigration is an indication of instablity in the region and requires a firm stand against this impending danger.

Lower House Deputies Discuss Soviet Emigration

JN0403104690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Mar 90 pp 1, 3

[By Salamah B. Ni'matt, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—the Lower House of Parliament, in a closed session Saturday, heard a report on the respective stands of all parties concerned with the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the occupied territories, and political blocs in the house presented several views on how to deal with the problem.

Parliamentary sources told the JORDAN TIMES times that Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim outlined the respective stands of the Arab states, the U.S., the Soviet Union, European states and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) vis-a-vis the influx of Soviet Jews into the occupied territories.

Addressing the closed session, the second in one week, al-Qasim underlined the European position which he said was "more advanced" on the issue than most states concerned, according to the sources.

Discussing Saturday's House session, Speaker Sulayman 'Arar told the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, that al-Qasim reviewed the current political situation and Jordan's policy towards current issues, and the deputies expressed views and made enquiries about the dangers threatening Jordan and the region.

Prime Minister Badran, 'Arar said, later answered deputies' questions. The prime minister "reviewed the political situation in the region as well as the Arab and international position toward the current issues," 'Arar told PETRA.

According to sources who spoke to the JORDAN TIMES, the foreign minister sparked a debate during the seven-hour session, when he reported that a Soviet radio station, beaming to Israel, expressed the opinion that Arab states were "unnecessarily exaggerating" the problem. "Even if it (the immigration) resulted in the settlement of Jews in the occupied territories."

Communist Deputy 'Isa Madanat, responding to the commentary, was quoted as saying that although he did not doubt al-Qasim's report, "I would have liked to see the foreign minister ask our ambassador in Moscow about the reality of the Soviet position."

Madanat quoted a senior Soviet official, whom he said was close to (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev," as saying that the immigration of Soviet Jews was more of an embarrassment to Moscow that to the Arab World, according to the sources. He explained that the exodus of Soviet Jews was a problem of theirs as well, in the sense that it contradicts the atmosphere of openness and indicates the dissatisfaction of their own citizens, the sources said.

Deputy 'Abd-al-Hafiz 'Alawi, speaking on behalf of the Islamic bloc, reportedly lashed out at the Soviet Union which he said always adopted the policy of forcing the migration of minorities such as Muslims and Circassians. He was quoted as saying: "We can see for ourselves some of those who were victims of this policy here in this house." (He pointed to Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, a Chechen), according to the sources.

Soviet Jewish immigration is part of the Soviet Union's longstanding policy of maintaining hegemony over the republics, 'Alawi was quoted as saying in an apparent reference to Muslim Azerbaijan which is seeking independence from the Soviet Union.

Deputy Hisham al-Sharari, speaking on behalf of the 19-member "national Bloc," expressed a view sympathetic to the official stand but launched an attack against the United States, according to the sources.

Reviewing Arab-U.S. relations, al-Sharari argued that it is U.S. policy which has resulted in Soviet Jewish immigration, the sources said.

He explained, according to the sources that the U.S. economic and political pressure on the Soviet Union over the past few years forced the Soviet Union to bend to the pressure after the sweeping changes in Eastern Europe and the growing internal pressure on the Kremlin.

The National Bloc, comprising independent and liberal deputies, including a few Cabinet members, put most of the blame for the problem on Washington rather than Moscow.

Al-Sharari reportedly said as much (the bloc) blamed our friend the Soviet Union, most of the blame falls on the United States which has forced this development [sentence as published]

Other deputies who spoke during the closed session proposed several measures to address the problem ranging from reviving the Eastern Front and mobilising the people's army to achieving Arab unity and declaring jihad against Israel.

According to one source, there was a consensus on the need to maintain national unity and forge a united Arab front through the revival of the Eastern Front.

There was agreement that the source of the problem is from within Arab ranks and the only solution can be through Arab efforts, the source said.

He added that talk about establishing a united Arab army was supported by all speakers, including Islamists, leftists and independents.

According to the sources leftist Deputy Dhib Marji spoke on behalf of deputies Faris al-Nabulsi and Fakhri Qa'war, while deputies Husni al-Shayyab and Mansur Murad, also leftists of the now moribund Democratic Bloc, spoke separately.

Al-Shayyab reportedly focused his speech on the need to clean our "own" house first by combatting corruption, enhancing national unity and achieving reform at all levels.

A Cabinet member and a member of the House warned however that exaggerating threats from Soviet immigration on Jordan could become a self-fulfilling prophecy and could lead to negative results in the context of providing an adequate atmosphere for investment and stability, the sources said.

The minister reportedly said that while during last Tuesday's session deputies put the blame for lack of progress in investigating the causes of the economic crisis on the Financial Committee, they appeared to be seeking to shift the blame onto the government during this session.

The minister reportedly added that the government preferred that the House committee carried out the investigation so that cabinet members could be free to plan for the future.

There are fears among ministers that if the government started ivnestigations in corruption cases, it (the government) may end up being accused of cover-ups on some sensitive issues such as Royal Jordanian, according to the minister.

He reportedly explained that the present board of directors of the national airline have so far been unable to incriminate any of the previous executives of the airline because of the lack of evidence in the airline's books.

Royal Jordanian is expected to unveil its 1988 and 1989 year-end balance sheet within the next two days, it was said.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran has said that no former or present officials would be put on trial unless enough evidence was made available to indict them.

Badran, who headed a Cabinet meeting later Saturday, was expected to brief the Cabinet on the outcome of His Majesty King Husayn's talk in Gulf states which ended Thursday.

King To Meet Saddam on 'Short Official Visit'

JN0303111490 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] His majesty the king left for Iraq this morning for a short official visit to Baghdad. During his visit, his majesty the king will meet with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and conduct talks on the latest developments in the area and issues of common interest.

His majesty is accompanied by the Chief of the Royal Court Al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir.

Returns From 'Working Visit'

JN0303185090 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned to the homeland today following a short working visit to Iraq, during which he conducted talks with his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Indian Parliamentary Delegation Arrives on Visit

JN0303174090 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] An Indian parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman this afternoon on a five-day visit to Jordan. The delegation, which is headed by speaker of the Indian Parliament, Mr. Rabi Ray, will hold talks with the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament on matters of mutual concern.

In a press statement upon arrival, Mr. Ray praised the existing relations between India and Jordan. He added: India will always support the Palestinian cause and calls for an end to the Israeli occupation to the occupied territories.

Delegation Meets With King

JN0403200690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening Mr. Rabi Ray, speaker of the Indian Lower House of Parliament, together with a number of deputies affiliated with various political parties in India.

His majesty welcomed the head and members of the delegation and praised the relations of friendship and cooperation between Jordan and India. He stressed the need for promoting economic bilateral relations in the interest of the two friendly countries. Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Sulayman 'Arar, speaker of the House of Representatives; deputies Nayif Abu-Tayih and 'Abd-al-Hafiz 'Alawi; and the Indian ambassador in Amman attended.

Minutes of Industrial Meeting With Syria Signed

JN0303152790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] In Amman, the minutes of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Coordination Committee meeting, which concluded today, were signed at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Trade and Industry Minister Dr. Ziyad Fariz and Syrian Industry Minister Antoine Jubran declared after signing the minutes that it was necessary to continue industrial coordination between the two countries by following up on the implementation of recommendations and resolutions of the Higher Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee to realize industrial integration between the two countries. Here are further details concerning the meeting from our correspondent's report:

The minutes of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Coordination Committee meeting included decisions and recommendations in numerous fields.

In industrial coordination, lists were drawn to include raw material and semi-finished product needs for industrial production exchanged by the two sides.

The two sides also agreed to exploit all industrial capabilities for existing industries in either of the two countries.

They agreed to exchange information and expertise, and to benefit from past experiments in engineering industry projects.

In the field of specifications and measures, the two sides agreed to begin matching the specifications of 10 items that do not have set specifications in either country.

In the area of joint industry, the two sides reviewed the resolutions of the Higher Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee, which convened recently in Amman. A number of decisions were taken to realize the goals behind establishment of these companies.

After signing the minutes of the committee meeting, Syrian Industry Minister Dr. Jubran spoke to our radio station on the results of these meetings and said:

[Begin recording] In general, one could say what we agreed on could bolster industrial cooperation. It could be a step toward coordination that is the beginning of the two fraternal countries' industrial integration. [end recording]

Dr. Jubran added:

[Begin recording] We could say this is not an agreement. They are steps to implement what was agreed upon during the meetings of the Higher Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee conducted in January of this year in Amman. What has been agreed upon really is to take steps and practical measures to finally apply the resolutions agreed on by the two countries in their Joint Committee meeting. [end recording]

Iranian Efforts To Secure Hostages' Release Cited

NC0503075790 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Citing a Syrian source, AP has reported that Mahmud Hashemi, brother of the Iranian president, yesterday met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to discuss efforts to secure the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon. AP cited the source, who was not identified, as saying that the meeting between Hashemi and Al-Shar' was held to coordinate the Syrian and Iranian governments' efforts to secure the release of all hostages in Lebanon.

The source said that Hashemi gave Al-Shar' a very friendly message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, which contained an invitation to visit Tehran to meet Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Iranian leader Ayatollah Khamene'i.

The source said that Hashemi arrived in Damascus after a secret visit to Beirut, during which he met with a high-ranking Shiite figure with whom he discussed the hostage issue.

The agency cited another Syrian source as saying that this is apparently the first serious effort for some time to resolve the hostage issue, adding: However, I do not believe that we will see a hostage released tomorrow.

The source said that no one can predict how long this process will take, adding: It appears that the Iranian president genuinely wants to put an end to this ordeal, but some difficulties remain.

Iranian Delegation Arrives 4 Mar

NC0503063490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] An Iranian delegation led by Mahmud Hashemi, head of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department, and comprising Ambassador Mahmud Akhtari in addition to Hashemi, arrived in Lebanon yesterday.

Before leaving for Lebanon, the delegation members met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Damascus and handed him a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The contents of the message were not disclosed.

Al-Hirawi, Al-Huss Leave for Riyadh 4 Mar

NC0403092590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi left Beirut for Riyadh today. During his visit he will hold talks with Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz and ranking Saudi officials. The talks will deal with the current situation in Lebanon and ways of implementing the al-Ta'if accord. Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul are accompanying President al-Hirawi.

Al-Hirawi on E. Beirut, Jewish Immigration

NC2802213090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today received a team from Voice of the Mountain radio headed by Ghazi al-'Aridi, and they reviewed political developments in the country. President al-Hirawi said: There is a catastrophe in the eastern area because of foreign weapons that were handed to the rival sides and because of foreign hands that acted behind the scenes and triggered the fighting.

The president said that the legitimate government prepared a five-year development plan, and it intends to launch into an Arab tour to raise funds from grants and loans, which the Arab brothers promised, to rebuild the country. However, the area which used to be prosperous was destroyed, and this will harm the whole country. The destruction will affect electricity and water supplies as well as the police force's ability to operate, the president said.

President al-Hirawi voiced his astonishment over the silence of East Beirut officials. He said: It is sad that despite what happened in the eastern area, I have not heard one official or clergyman in that area ask: Where is the legitimate government? Let us go back to it.

This proves that the officials and the clergy in the eastern area are not against partition. As for us, we will stand firm against partition. We have the firm resolve and the patience to carefully deal with the situation, the president asserted.

In reply to a question about the French position, al-Hirawi said: Yesterday I was completely frank with the French ambassador and said: You must declare your full support for the legitimate government. When we wanted to intervene and end the usurpation and rebellion, you all stood against us, and your position has led to a disaster. Had we intervened, the disaster would have been much smaller, the state's power would have been extended, and the al-Ta'if agreement would have been implemented.

You and the Vatican are responsible for what happened in East Beirut because you were not frank. You were meeting with East Beirut parties and we gave you every opportunity to continue your mediation. We hoped that you would convince that man, meaning 'Awn, to step down and leave the government's affairs to the legitimate authorities. However, you were not frank, and your warnings were wrong. Because of that, now there is a mess that you should clean up.

President al-Hirawi said to French Ambassador Rene Ala: If your policy remains unchanged, a catastrophe will hit this country and especially the Christians, whom you are used to defending for the wrong reasons. It is wrong to defend one sect while excluding others in Lebanon. The entire country needs protection.

President al-Hirawi asked the French ambassador to convey his message to the French Government and said: If you can help us, do so or let us do things our way.

President al-Hirawi disclosed to the Voice of the Mountain team that he showed the French ambassador the message that he received from U.S. President George Bush. Al-Hirawi asked the French Government to follow the U.S. Administration's footsteps and make a statement similar to that which Bush made in the last paragraph of his message. He affirmed that the United States supports the legitimate government in any action it takes to handle the situation in East Beirut and the entire country.

Concerning reports that the French ambassador conveyed an initiative to al-Hirawi yesterday, the president said: There is no initiative. I asked the ambassador to make public any initiative he may have. I told him that if the French want to play a role, they may do so only through the legitimate authorities.

Al-Hirawi asked the ambassador: Who encouraged 'Awn? He also blamed and reproached the ambassador because of the fuel the French supplied to the army gunboats which 'Awn has appropriated. Al- Hirawi said: You have supplied the gunboats with fuel so these boats can return to the Golden Beach. Had you been serious, you would have supplied these boats with fuel and then sent them to the legal authorities.

Al-Hirawi added: We in the legitimate government have taken to heart every warning and every piece of advice we were given, but now we just seem to be waiting for East Beirut to be destroyed. This destruction will seriously undermine not just one Lebanese party, but the entire country's infrastructure. This does not make sense. We will decide where our interests and the interests of this country are, and we will defend these interests, regardless of blame or criticism.

Concerning the Vatican's stand, al-Hirawi said: Our emissary met the pope and Bishops (Casarolli) and (Silvestini), and they informed him that the Vatican is committed to the unity of Lebanon as a country belonging to the Arab world. Al-Hirawi said: Some people are being influenced by certain clergymen and certain parties with strong sectarian feelings, but these people actually contradict the official Vatican position. Al-Hirawi was asked: Do these people affect the Vatican by making it reluctant to actually support the legal government? Al-Harawi said: No, not really.

Concerning the recent contacts with the Lebanese Forces, al-Hirawi said: I am open to dialogue and we have been in touch with all sides, even with the officers of [words indistinct]. My positions, which are that all parties should accept the legal government and that Lebanon should stay united, remain the same. There is a clear clause in the al-Ta'if agreement saying that the government is one of national reconciliation. If the government today lacks the representation of certain sides, then we are ready to expand it. There is a need to expand the legitimate state's power over the entire country and to disband the militias, even if we allow some militia representatives to become cabinet ministers. President al-Hirawi praised the cooperation of the West Beirut parties who removed fighters from the streets as soon as the security plan was implemented.

As for the Army, President al-Hirawi said: The Army's infrastructure has been undermined. We want to impose our authority over the Lebanese territories, but with what? With borrowed troops? God forbid. We have to do that with our Army. Therefore, I am calling on officers to join the legitimate authorities and leave 'Awn, so that we may rebuild the institution which I wish to rebuild. However, if we have to wait long and no one answers this call, I will do what I have to do, because I will not allow Lebanon to be partitioned. Al-Hirawi said: We have called for enlistment in the Army, and we have dropped the old sectarian quotas for enrollment in either the Army or the police force.

Al-Hirawi underlined the need to rebuild the Army to implement UN Security Council Resolution No. 425 concerning the south. He said: We should not take lightly the inherent dangers in a million Soviet Jews' immigrating to Palestine. The United States closed its doors to them and refused to receive them, so Israel has become their only option. If Israel were to absorb them gradually, it would have to expel a million Arabs to Lebanon, because this is the weakest country in the region. Other Arab countries have armies with sufficient capabilities to prevent Israel from sending the Palestinians to their countries. Therefore, if we do not act immediately, rebuild our Army, and consider the events in the south, we will face a disaster. It is time to blow the whistle.

President al-Hirawi commented on what has been termed the Palestinian initiative. He said: I strongly regret that those who caused the catastrophe in the country are now the advocates of tackling local issues. I do not think that this move is prompted by a comprehensive Arab aegis. He then wondered whether a single Arab country supports this action or whether it was initiated for ulterior motives. He stressed that those who initiated this action have supported 'Awn financially, and said: I would refuse to receive them if asked to do so.

President al-Hirawi defined the political goals of his intended Arab tour as follows: to underline support for the al-Ta'if accord and for the steps to implement it, to develop all the Lebanese areas and support the government's steps, and to ask for assistance to rebuild the Army.

President al-Hirawi praised the enthusiastic welcome accorded those who evacuated the eastern area in Ba'labakk, al-Biqa', Zahlah, Dayr al-Ahmar, Dayr al-Qamar, and in the south. He stressed that this proves that Lebanon and its people will not be partitioned. He called for utilizing this noble Lebanese enthusiasm, which was shown during the tragic situation in the eastern area, to rally around each other again and to convince people

fairly—and if it is not possible to convince them fairly then do it some other way—to put an end to the tragedy in the eastern area. He noted that he discussed the issue of the evacuees' returning to the mountain with Walid Junblatt and said Junblatt was completely ready and willing to contribute to the practical steps that the government must take toward rebuilding and toward building model villages.

LF Statement Denies 'Awn's Forces 'Progress'

NC0203145490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Statement by the Lebanese Forces' Media Department on 2 March—read by announcer]

[Text] Some local and foreign media are propagating reports on progress made by Michel 'Awn's groups in the Sinn al-Fil area and in their controlling the Phalangist House, al-Sayyidah Church, and (name indistinct) al-Shaluhi center. The media department categorically denies these reports, and the department invited local and foreign journalists to contact it, if they wish, to arrange visits to the aforementioned areas.

Malik Cautions 'Awn on Storming Al-Ashrafiyah

NC0203133990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] In an interview with Radio Free Lebanon, Major General Fu'ad Malik, chief of the Lebanese Forces' General Staff, has stressed the need for dialogue and negotiation. He also stressed that the only solution to the current situation in the eastern area is to disengage the two sides' military forces, send them to their barracks, and re-deploy the army forces on their fronts.

Malik stressed that any attempt to storm al-Ashrafiyah will not be a promenade. He said: I hope that General 'Awn is not contemplating entering al-Ashrafiyah. We advise him not to try. However, if he attack, he will suffer defeat.

Malik said that a political solution requires a long time and discussions. He added: We refuse to live under a dictatorship. He stressed that the Lebanese Forces support political pluralism.

'Awn Reportedly Asks Forces To Observe Cease-Fire

NC0203190290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpts] According to the latest security reports, intermittent rocket, artillery, and machine gun fire continues between 'Awn's group and Ja'ja's forces in al-Dawrah, Salome, and Sinn al-Fil. This evening, the media of the two warring parties spoke of intermittent artillery shelling of the fringes of al-Dawrah, nothern al-Matn coast, and al-Ashrafiyah.

Meanwhile, reportedly rebel officer Michel 'Awn has issued a directive to his forces asking them to abide by the cease-fire. He also called on his media to stop the propaganda campaigns. [passage omitted]

Citing eyewitnesses, REUTER said this evening that military units loyal to rebel officer Michel 'Awn have withdrawn from most of the positions they occupied in Salome, al-Nab'ah, and Sinn al-Fil on Thursday and Friday. A source close to 'Awn said that this shows good intentions in response to mediation by the Vatican, France, and Patriarch Sfayr to achieve a cease-fire agreement.

REUTER cited the source close to 'Awn as saying: We continue to hold some positions which we captured in the past 24 hours. Meanwhile, informed political sources said that 'Awn's group withdrew after stiff resistance from Ja'ja's militia. The sources added that 'Awn's group sustained grave losses during the battles in the past two days.

Lebanese Forces Reportedly Halt Fighting

NC0203205990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpts] 'Awn's group's artillery deployed in Zabbugha and Qurnat Shahwan shelled al-Qulay'at and Durayya, where the security situation became tense tonight. The shelling was launched as a cover for the tractors that were fortifying the front positions.

'Ajaltun also came under tank shelling while the Lebanese Forces continued to abide by the cease-fire agreement. On al-'Adliyah's front line there was a limited setback, during which 'Awn's units deployed in al-'Adliyah and al-Barid used rockets and machine guns against the residential areas on the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah and Hayy al-Siryan. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a responsible source in the Lebanese Forces' command has made the following statement:

At the request of His Beatitude Patriarch Sfayr, in response to the mediation committee's wishes, and after this committee has informed the Lebanese Forces of the other party's willingness to stop the firing and the media campaigns, the Lebanese Forces reiterates that it is completely abiding by the cease-fire. It also announces a halt to the media campaigns as of 2130 today. It hopes that the other party's announcement with regard to abiding by the cease-fire will be real this time and not just verbal, because peace cannot be attained unilaterally; it requires both sides.

Al-Huss Wants Port Crossing Open for Wounded

NC0203134390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has telephoned Army Commander General Elie Lahhud and asked him to ensure that the port crossing is open to facilitate the

passage of a Lebanese and International Red Cross convoy carrying wounded from East Beirut to West Beirut. The convoy crossed at approximately 1230. Prime Minister al-Huss has asked that the port crossing remain permanently open to the convoys carrying wounded.

Calm Prevails on Combat Lines; Violations Reported

NC0303073390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] According to security reports this morning, calm prevails on the various fronts in observance of the cease-fire. The security situation became a little tense on the al-'Adliyah combat line, which witnessed a limited incident last night during which a number of shells and bursts of machine-gun fire were directed at the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah and Hayy al-Siryan from positions held by General 'Awn's units in al-'Adliyah and al-Barid areas. A few shells also fell in the vicinity of the brewery in the Nahr al-Mawt area. Several shells fired from Jisr al-Basha area also fell in the vicinity of the al-Sayyidah church, in Sinn al-Fil.

A similar setback took place on the Darayya-al-Qulay'at front when the two towns came under fire from Gen. 'Awn's artillery emplacements in Zabbugha and Qurnat Shahwan. The residential neighborhoods in 'Ajaltun also came under tank gun fire. All this took place while the Lebanese Forces were abiding by the cease-fire decision.

A series of cease-fire violations took place early this morning, as follows:
At 0405, a shell was fired at Galerie Khabbaz, followed by the firing of flares over the brewery and Nahr al-Mawt areas, and one shell and flares on Ju'ayta barracks.
At 0415, two mortar shells and bursts of machine gun fire were directed at Galerie Khabbaz area. Another shell was later fired at Galerie Khabbaz.
At 0445, three flares and three mortar shells were fired toward Ju'ayta barracks.
At 0500, heavy bursts of fire from medium-caliber weapons directed at Ju'ayta barracks from Mar 'Abdah and Mazra'at Yashu'.
At 0505, a mortar shell was fired at the brewery in Nahr al-Mawt area.

'Awn Clings to Fighting Objectives

NC0303074890 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] According to knowledgeable sources, General 'Awn continues to reject the normalization of the situation in the eastern area and to reliquish the objectives of the war he has been waging against the so-called the Lebanese Forces. The sources added that Gen. 'Awn has given the mediation committee a deadline of a few hours to reach an understanding with the command of the so-called the Lebanese Forces, or he will be compelled to continue the war regardless of the consequences.

Lebanese Forces Positions Under Fire 4 Mar

NC0403203190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Intensive bursts of machine gun fire and a B-7 shell were directed from the al-Tibbiyah area toward Lebanese Forces positions at 1850 today. At 1910, the al-Ashrafiyah area and the Olivetti building came under sniper fire from the public transport center.

Unidentified Planes Fly Over B'abda, Other Areas

NC0403152590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1522 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Three unidentified planes have flown over the mountain area, the Southern Suburb, and B'abda. They were confronted by antiaircraft fire.

Meanwhile, the security situation is characterized by relative calm occasionallly interspersed with sniper and machine gun fire, particularly in the al-Judaydah and Sinn al-Fil areas.

Fadlallah on E. Beirut Fighting, Hostages' Release

NC0203080490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] In an interview with AFP, Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah spoke about the battles in the eastern area. He said: These battles try to weaken the Maronite community with an international blessing in the same way that other communities have been weakened in order to restructure Lebanon according to a new plan. Fadlallah added that the army will not emerge as a loser from these battles because it is the militia of the Americans and it will be a tool for creating a Lebanon different from the French concept of a new Lebanon. The United States believes that it is impossible to divorce the Lebanese issue from a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis, whereas France believes that the Lebanese issue could be resolved separately by maintaining the country's unionist structure.

Fadlallah also said: Washington wants to keep the Lebanese crisis alive until some aspects of the Middle East issue crystallize, particularly the question of the Palestinians and their settlement in Lebanon. He believes that the Israeli leaders agree on the establishment of Greater Israel with its biblical borders and that they will not relinquish an inch of the land. He also believes that these leaders have expansionist aims constituting a danger to Israel's adjacent areas, particularly south Lebanon which they want to occupy in order to facilitate the settlement of the Soviet Jews.

Fadlallah raised the issue of the hostages: There are practical factors indicating that the Western hostages in Lebanon will be freed.

Islamic Leader Escapes Assassination in W. Beirut

NC0303073690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Shaykh Khalil al-Barazi, head of the Muslim 'Ulema League in Lebanon, escaped an assassination attempt on al-Sadat Street in West Beirut yesterday evening. According to a security report, an unidentified individual armed with a pistol fired at Shaykh al-Barazi several times, injuring him seriously. He was taken to the American University Hospital.

'Mosad' Officer Killed; 'Awn Troops Down to '6,600'

NC0503134490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] According to the media of Ja'ja' and 'Awn, calm prevails on all fronts and lines. AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, however, has reported exchanges of machinegun fire. East Beirut media says that the mediation committee is working quietly to normalize the situation. 'Arafat's mediation team is possibly working toward this same objective. That team met today with Patriarch Sfayr, with whom it reviewed the outcome of its consultations in East Beirut.

A joint security committee from the 'Awn and Ja'ja' gangs removed hurdles on the Nahr al-Mawt-al-Dawrah road today.

It is noticeable here that 'Awn's media tried to play down the extent of the carnage and destruction in East Beirut. They said today that, had the battles continued, a great catastrophe would have befallen East Beirut, particularly in view of the fires which broke out in the al-Dawrah fuel depots and other factories and facilities, as if what happened could be seen as anything less than a catastrophe.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti paper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM today cites a Ja'ja' officer as saying that an officer of the Israeli Mosad was killed during the merciless battles between 'Awn and Ja'ja' gangs last week.

Ja'ja' gangs are circulating a report on 'Awn's losses in the East Beirut war. The report claims that 375 of 'Awn's personnel were killed, including 25 officers, and 500 were injured. According to the report, Ja'ja' gangs captured 30 M-113 personnel carriers, 34 T-55 tanks, and 12 M-48 tanks. The report discussed the state of 'Awn troops, claiming that 'Awn is now left with 6,600 men, whereas before the battle he had 12,000 men under arms. The report mentions ammunition shortages and claims that 'Awn withdrew his fighters from the fronts at al-Matn, Suq al-Gharb, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah.

Hizballah Said Ready To Leave Iqlim Al-Tuffah

NC0203195990 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, has declared that Lebanon's Hizballah is ready to withdraw from some areas of Iqlim al-Tuffah in southern Lebanon, provided that the Amal troops are not redeployed in these areas. Beirut papers published an interview today, and al-Musawi, who is also known as Abu-Hisham, said that in a recent meeting, Hizballah told some Syrian officials that it is ready to withdraw its troops from some of the Iqlim al-Tuffah areas that they occupied earlier. They will do this provided that a supply route is secured and that the Islamic resistance fighters maintain access to southern Lebanon to attack the Zionists.

At a later stage, he added, talks between Lebanon's Hizballah and Amal Movement officials will be held, under the supervision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria, to discuss fully implementing the Damascus agreement. Abu-Hisham said our main objective in ending the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah is to strengthen the Islamic resistance and ensure the continued struggle of the Muslim mujahidin against the Zionist entity in southern Lebanon.

Amal Says Hizballah Firing at Villages in South

NC0303182390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] An Amal security source in the south said that Hizballah gunmen have been directing mortar and heavy machinegun fire at residential areas in Humin al-Fawqa, 'Anqun, Sarba, Kafr Hatta, and Kafr Bayt from their positions in al-Luwayzah and Jabal Safi since midday today. One citizen was injured and seven houses damaged, the source added.

Israeli Planes Fly Over Sidon, Camps

NC0403180490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Israeli fighter aircraft flew over Sidon and the nearby camps at 1630 today, drawing antiaircraft fire.

Al-Shar' Receives Visiting Iranian Official

JN0403172290 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1555 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 4 Mar (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Mahmud Hashemi, director of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Third Department, who is currently visiting Syria.

During the meeting, also attended by Hasan Akhtari, Iran's ambassador in Damascus, the Iranian official conveyed to Al-Shar' a message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Conversation during the meeting revolved around bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

Egyptian Official Discusses Industrial Cooperation

JN0303190490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1748 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 3 Mar (SANA)—Industry Minister Antoine Jubran today discussed with Mr. Muhammad Najib 'Abd-al-Hadi, head of the administrative board of the general authority for the production of cement and building materials in the Arab Republic of Egypt, fields of bilateral cooperation in the industry of cement and its derivatives such as porcelain, ceramic, and others.

Mr. Jubran reviewed with Mr. 'Abd-al-Hadi and his delegation the possibility of exchanging expertise and cooperating in the means of producing cement, in addition to producing spare parts and trading materials needed for production in an equal exchange that would safeguard the interests of the two countries, as well as cooperation in the field of joint marketing.

Mr. Jubran affirmed the importance of industrial cooperation between Syria and Egypt to serve the interests of the two Arab countries and of joint Arab action.

The members of the Egyptian delegation are expected to visit the cement and porcelain factories in the provinces of Hamah and Tartus to learn about production operations and means of exportation.

Industry Minister Jubran Returns From Amman

JN0303185790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Damascus, 3 Mar (SANA)—Industry Minister Antoine Jubran returned here today from Amman after a visit to Jordan lasting several days. During his visit, he held talks with Jordanian officials aiming to implement the resolutions of the Higher Joint Syrian-Jordanian Committee in the fields of industrial coordination and joint company work. [passage omitted]

Khaddam, Al-Husayni Discuss Lebanese Situation

JN0303140690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni in Damascus at 1030 today. Their talks centered on the Lebanese situation and ways to bring peace back to the country, provide support for the legitimate government to extend its authority over all Lebanese territory, and revive and reactivate the state's institutions and organs.

L'EXPRESS Cited on Anti-Al-Asad Demonstration

JN0203072890 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Syrian security forces few weeks ago dispersed a blatant demonstration in Damascus staged by the families of political detainees. In its issue published today, the French magazine L'EXPRESS said the demonstrators shouted slogans that called for the overthrow of President al-Asad's regime.

The demonstration took place on 5 February with the participation of the political detainees' families and a number of Syrian Communist Party members. Demonstrators called for the release of their sons. However, when they began criticizing President al-Asad, police forces violently dispersed them.

Al-Asad Receives Argentinian Presidential Envoy

JN0303163490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1602 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 3 Mar (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received here this afternoon Mrs. Amira Jum'ah [name as received], envoy of Argentinian President Carlos Menem, who conveyed a message from the latter to his excellency concerning bilateral relations. Mrs. Jum'ah extended to President al-Asad an invitation from the Argentinian president to visit Argentina.

The president accepted the invitation and promised to respond to it at an opportune time. He sent his greetings and good wishes to President Menem and the friendly Argentinian people.

Measures To Facilitate Expatriates' Visits

JN0303171190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1625 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 3 Mar (SANA)—It was announced here today that measures have been taken to provide Syrian expatriates coming back to visit the fatherland with all facilities.

Local Administration Minister Ahmad Diyab today issued a circular to all border posts and airports to this effect. The circular emphasizes the importance of full cooperation with representatives of the National Committee for Syrian Expatriates, who are entrusted with the task of welcoming the expatriates to facilitate their affairs and to treat them well during their visit to the fatherland.

Afghanistan

Special Court Tries 124 People for Coup Plot

BK0503153090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1459 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 5 (AFP)—A special court here Monday [5 March] began trying some 124 Afghans charged with plotting a coup against the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah.

The National Security Court, presided over by three civilian judges, brought to trial a first batch of five men in a makeshift courtroom at the Storay Palace, which houses Foreign Ministry offices. A government spokesman told reporters that the rest of the 124, who were arrested in December, would be tried in batches.

Journalists were not allowed inside the hall where Monday's trial was held. The spokesman divulged no details about the proceedings which he said were the "first part of the trial."

The alleged coup plotters, who face a maximum punishment of death, have been provided no lawyers and must defend themselves.

The Kabul government revealed the coup plot in December saying the clandestine Central Organisation of Islamic Party, a group which allegedly has links with the Hezb-e Eslami Afghan resistance group based in Pakistan, was behind it.

Afghan Army generals, other officers, members of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and ordinary people were among 127 people held beginning December 2.

A Defence Ministry communications official, a colonel-general and a colonel were released after they were determined to be innocent of involvement in the coup plot.

The government spokesman said the plotters had also planned to carry out "terroristic" activities such as detonating explosives and some were involved in espionage. They aimed at destabilising and ultimately overthrowing Mr. Najibullah and his 25-year-old Soviet-backed party, which came to power with the help of a coup.

The five men tried Monday were not named, and their punishments were to be announced later. An official said they included the local Hezb commander.

Security in Kabul was stepped up as the trial began. Armoured personnel carriers took positions on either side of the road leading to the venue and cars were being searched. Armoured carriers patrolled the city and soldiers, some carrying shoulder-fired rocket propellers, maintained a high profile.

Four rockets suspected to have been fired by Afghan rebels hit the city Monday, but they landed in non-residential areas in western Kabul without causing casualties, the government spokesman said. Elsewhere in the city, security forces seized 14 kilograms (31 pounds) of explosives. No arrests were mentioned.

Resistance Shoots Down Plane Near Khowst 1 Mar

BK0303103990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1023 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 3 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance, which is attacking the town of Khowst in southeastern Afghanistan, said Saturday [3 March] it had shot down a military transport plane in the region, killing all 25 on board.

The Soviet-made aircraft was destroyed late Thursday by an American-made ground-to-air Stinger missile fired from the Esma'il Kheyl Region, west of Khowst, according to the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP). The flight originated in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul.

Afghan mujahidin said February 20 they had shot down, also with a Stinger missile, another military aircraft in the same region, killing at least 20 soldiers. The entire arms and munitions cargo in the plane shot down Thursday was also destroyed, according to AIP. The agency did not indicate whether the plane was descending when it was shot down.

The Afghan Army continuously bombarded rebel positions around Khowst Friday and Saturday, AIP said, adding that mujahidin fighters gave a preliminary count of "two dead and many injured."

Two ground-to-ground Scud missiles were fired from Kabul in 24 hours, the agency said. Scud missiles have a range of 300 kilometres (180 miles) and carry a charge equivalent to about one ton of explosives.

AIP reported that "defections in governmental ranks continue."

The Afghan resistance forces, led by Commander Jalalludin Haqqani, have apparently made Khowst their primary target since a failed offensive against Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan, one day after the withdrawal of Soviet troops last February.

Yunis Khalis, whose forces are at the core of the rebel groups attacking Khowst, said Wednesday that if the mujahidin used sufficient arms and munitions "we would be able to capture the town."

Rebels Fire Cluster Missiles at Kabul Residences

1 Killed, 8 Injured

LD0303161690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] A a result of the firing of three U.S.-made cluster type surface-to-surface missiles, one child was martyred today and eight more citizens of Kabul were injured.

BAKHTAR's military section reported that those injured were immediately transferred to the hospitals where they are under intensive medical treatment. The mines scattered from these missiles were quickly gathered and defused by the security forces. Material losses were also caused as a result of the firing of these missiles.

More Missiles Fired

LD0403174890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Today Pakistan-backed extremists fired five missiles at Kabul City's residential areas. As a result, four of our compatriots were killed and seven were wounded. BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY'S military section reports that those injured were taken to hospitals for treatment immediately.

The missiles were U.S. cluster-type missiles; the mines which were spread by them were gathered and defused immediately by security forces personnel. The missiles inflicted material damage. [passage omitted]

AFP Reports 4 Killed, 15 Wounded

BK0403133690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1308 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 4 (AFP)—Afghan rebels fired three cluster rockets at residential targets here Sunday [4 March], killing four civilians and wounding 15 others, a government spokesman here said.

The deadliest rocket slammed into a new housing project in the Wazirabad area in western Kabul, causing all four fatalities and wounding 11, the spokesman said.

Another cluster bomb landed on a street in Taimani area in the same part of the city and a third hit farmland east of Kabul Airport. Two people were wounded in each case.

The spokesman described the rockets as United States-built cluster rockets packed with tiny percussion mines that explode on impact. He said the rockets were "anti-civilian" missiles also capable of causing heavy military damage.

The government maintains a news blackout on rockets that hit military targets.

The latest rockets hit Kabul a day after three similar missiles killed a child and wounded eight other civilians. They landed as Afghan armed forces carried out mopping up operations south and west of Kabul in a sweep of suspected mujahidin rebel hideouts and captured sizable quantities of arms and ammunition.

The spokesman said the seizures included 26 kilograms (52 pounds) of plastic explosives, 17 mortars, a number of grenades and a "big amount" of small arms.

Najibullah Interviewed on Peace Prospects, Issues

JN0403175190 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 3 Mar 90 p 25

[Interview with President Najibullah by Shukri al-Jawhari in Kabul—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Jawhari] Prior to and after the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, you made several proposals to bring about peace and end the war with opposition forces in your country. Would you like to use these proposals to create a multi-point initiative to be implemented according to a set timetable?

[Najibullah] Looking into our latest peace proposals, we find that the first step along the road to peace is an expanded peace conference with the participation of all forces and groups that advocate peace and stability in Afghanistan. The conference would elect a command council, which in turn would form a coalition government comprising all forces attending the conference. The command council would elect a committee to draft a constitution and another to draft an election law.

Parallel with these measures, a six-month cease-fire would be announced. After that, the Grand Assembly, which in Persian we call the Loya Jirgah, would be convened to approve the new constitution and the election law. Then, general elections would be held according to the new election law, and the winning party or coalition would form a new government.

In order to ensure sound elections and government, we have proposed that the elections be held under international auspices.

[Al-Jawhari] The information we have makes it clear that your government has actually held contacts with Afghan opposition organizations on several occasions, and that foreign pressure on these organizations has played an important role in foiling the achievement of positive results; this pressure has even led to the discontinuation of contacts. Have you tried to hold direct contacts with the foreign forces that influence the opposition and make it reject national reconciliation?

[Najibullah] We believe that the key to a solution to our problems is inside our country, with the Afghans themselves. The Afghan Government sought to contact a large number of field commanders of armed opposition groups, whether at home or abroad. Fortunately, our efforts had good results.

At the same time, the Afghan Government has declared and stressed in successive official statements that it welcomes the efforts of some countries and circles which wish to play a positive role in expediting a peaceful solution to pending issues in Afghanistan.

[Al-Jawhari] The United Nations, along with Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, made strenuous efforts leading to the Geneva agreement that resulted in the withdrawal of Soviet troops from your country. The war, however, has not stopped. Do you think present circumstances are such that you need the good offices of other mediators like the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] chaired by His Highness Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah—a man willing to make every effort during his tenure on behalf of Muslim causes?

[Najibullah] The Afghan people are grateful for the UN efforts, especially the secretary general's. We sense that the world body can play a more influential role towards a solution.

We have asked all countries, including Arab and Islamic ones, to work for initiating a dialogue and talks among Afghans and to lay the groundwork for ending the war and bringing about a durable peace in our country and peace and stability in the region. As an ICO member, Afghanistan hopes that other members of the organization, including Kuwait as its incumbent president, will exert themselves on behalf of a just peace compatible with our people's demands and circumstances as stipulated by the Koran.

[Al-Jawhari] You have proposed a dialogue with opposition leaders in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. If I may ask: Why don't you go to Mecca to perform the pilgrimage come the next hajj season?

[Najibullah] Approximately a year ago, we announced during a convention of leading religious scholars and intellectuals from around the Muslim world in Kabul that in the interest of solving the conflict, and subject to King Fahd's approval, we would be prepared to go to Saudi Arabia and sit for talks with opposition groups in the vicinity of the Great Mosque of Mecca in the spirit of the teachings of Islam. But we have yet to hear from any of the parties concerned. We are still as commited as ever to our proposal. It is worthwhile to emphasize here that whatever plans the Afghan Government proposes, the Saudi monarch would have a role in this respect.

[Al-Jawhari] In certain instances the Afghan media criticize some Arabian Gulf countries for their alleged support for the opposition in your country. Why don't you make a political gesture toward these countries and release the Arab prisoners, especially since the Islamic world is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the ICO?

[Najibullah] The Afghan authorities have arrested a large number of spies from some countries who entered the country illegally and carried out sabotage operations against our country and people, in conflict with all the international criteria and laws. These people were tried by legal courts in accordance with our country's laws, and were sentenced in accordance with the crimes they had committed.

However, the Republic of Afghanistan is pursuing a humanitarian policy. It therefore pardoned some of these people, whose countries called for pardoning them or reducing their terms in prison for humanitarian considerations. As a result, the Afghan Government will take humanitarian measures in favor of the foreigners, whose countries have voiced hope through the usual diplomatic channels that such measures would be taken.

[Al-Jawhari] Out of these humanitarian considerations, may we request you permit the families of the Arab prisoners in Afghan prisons to visit them?

[Begin Al-Jawari report] Without any hesitation, President Najibullah agreed and said: They can visit the prisoners in Afghanistan.

I said to the president: We hope that your excellency will issue instructions to your embassies abroad and to the relevant authorities in the Afghan Government to facilitate these humanitarian visits.

Once again, the president said without any hesitation: Our government is ready to provide every facility for the families and relatives of the Arab prisoners. The Afghan embassies and diplomatic missions are ready to provide facilities for people who want to travel to Afghanistan for this purpose. [end report]

[Al-Jawhari] By the way, how many Arabs are fighting alongside the opposition forces? Have you held contacts with the governments of the Arab countries to halt the influx of these fighters, and what are the details and results of these contacts, if any?

[Najibullah] The existence of a number of Arab prisoners in Afghanistan proves that non-Afghan spies and armed agents are interfering in our domestic affairs, and that there is no international law giving a country the right to send its armed agents to carry out sabotage operations inside another country.

In fact, these countries' indifference to this issue or their involvement in sending agents to Afghanistan means noncommitment to and undermining of international laws.

We expect these countries—whose citizens are interfering in our country's domestic affairs—not to allow their citizens to interfere and not to violate international laws and relations through these citizens.

[Al-Jawhari] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has sought to broker an agreement between the Afghan Government and opposition. Do you see him playing such a role now?

[Najibullah] We are happy to see brother Yasir 'Arafat or any other peace loving personality for that matter showing an interest. They are most welcome by the Afghan Government.

[Al-Jawhari] What were the circumstances that helped bring about a cease-fire agreement with the Iran-based Afghan opposition groups? Do you see their fighters joining the ranks of Government forces in the fight against the Peshawar-based organizations?

[Najibullah] I must make it clear that no agreement has been reached on a proper cease-fire. It must be emphasized that any reasonable man should respond favorably to the Afghan Government's peace overtures, since these constitute the best route to terminating the war and assuring peace, especially now that Soviet forces are out of the country.

[Al-Jawhari] What do you think are the reasons behind Pakistan's failure to honor the 1988 Geneva accords on non-interference in Afghanistan's affairs? Don't you think that Benazir Bhutto's assumption of office following the demise of General Ziaul Haq should have brought about a propitious climate for improved relations with Pakistan, especially given that the pro-Zia Islamic parties are now in opposition, as things were during her father's years in office?

[Najibullah] We had expected Pakistan to emerge from its negative stand on Afghanistan after the arrival of a parliamentary government in the country. As it turned out, no change has materialized. It may be thanks to the disproportionate inluence of the military and intelligence services, in addition to external pressures.

[Al-Jawhari] Your good relations with India and the USSR have prompted Pakistan and the PRC to take sides with your opponents. How true is this?

[Najibullah] The fact is that Afghanistan has never been biased in its foreign relations towards one state against another. We have always been for the establishment of good relations with all states. Based on our peaceful foreign policy, we hope that we will establish normal and cordial relations with all world states. Of course, we also hope that all other sides will not sacrifice their relations with Afghanistan based on their different stands toward other states.

[Al-Jawhari] Now, one year after the Soviet forces' withdrawal from your country, and after you have proved that you are able to defend yourselves without the need for foreign assistance, do you believe that your request for the Soviet forces' intervention was wrong, and were its advantages greater than its disadvantages, or vice versa?

[Najibullah] We support the recent Soviet leadership's view regarding the dispatch of forces to Afghanistan.

[Begin Al-Jawhari report] Our last question to Afghan President Dr. Najibullah was: Yasir 'Arafat mediated to secure the release of a U.S. photographer whom you have detained. What was behind the release of this U.S. photographer? Was the objective only to improve the PLO's image before world public opinion, or was it also to open a channel of dialogue between you and the Americans? The answer was very diplomatic. [end report]

[Najibullah] Although we admit that the mediation of a great figure such as brother Yasir 'Arafat should be taken into consideration, we say that the Afghan Government's response was based on its humanitarian policy.

100-Member Konarha Assembly Elected 1 Mar

BK0203133790 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Mar 90 pp 1,8

[From Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Excerpt] Asadabad, (Konarha), March 1—Afghanistan's first-ever party-based elections began in mujahidin-controlled Konarha Province and in Afghan refugees camps in Pakistan Thursday [1 March] as about three lakh voters went to the polls to elect a 100-member provincial Shura.

This correspondent was part of a team of local and foreign journalists which observed the polling during a trip to Konarha today. Long queues of voters were seen in the morning at two polling stations in Konarha's capital Asadabad and in the Sarkano Woleswali [district]. Familiar election scenes of canvassing, sloganeering from loudspeakers, and display of posters were visible everywhere.

Elections on non-party basis during ex-King Zahir Shah's rule were held in Afghanistan in 1965 and 1969. The PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] government claims to have staged elections after the April 1978 Revolution but these were boycotted by the mujahidin.

The elections in Konarha are also being held in controversial circumstances since the Peshawar-based Afghan Interim Government [AIG] has rejected them. Its call for a boycott, however, appeared to have gone unheeded since voters displayed enthusiasm at the hustings. Even the Konarha leadership and members of the six parties which make up the AIG ignored the boycott appeal and actively participated in the elections. [passage omitted]

India

Unrest, Violence Continue To Plague Kashmir

Curfew Imposed

BK0203161390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Curfew has been imposed in Srinagar and other towns of Jammu and Kashmir following yesterday's [1 March] violence in which 15 persons were killed. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that this

is being done to prevent processions which have shown a tendency to get violent and out of control. He said an inquiry conducted by the corps commander of Srinagar, Lieutenant General A.M. Zaki, into yesterday's incidents has reported that the forces had to open fire when a guard's weapon was being snatched and school children were being attacked. The state government has issued a warning to subversives not to attack army personnel as they are duty bound to defend their life and property.

In another development, seven Kashmiri youths were rescued from near (Tungwali Bahagji). They were carrying two bodies which were abandoned by Pakistani agents following a severe blizzard.

'Subversive' Network Uncovered

BK0303163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, intelligence agencies have uncovered the activities of a major subversive outfit—the Hezbul Mujahid [Party of Holy Warriors]. The breakthrough was achieved following the arrest of a member of the gang from Sopor and subsequent investigations. A state government spokesman said that the leader of the gang has been found to be functioning from Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. He has been providing finance, training, and arms to the militants in the valley. The spokesman said that between November last year and January this year, at least 40 Kashmiri youths were sent to Muzaffarabad for training. Two persons from Kutwara, who were helping the militants to cross over the border, have been arrested. According to official estimates, about 42 subversive groups are active in the valley.

Meanwhile, the situation in the valley remained peaceful today with curfew in force in Srinagar and other towns. Curfew has, however, been lifted in Anantnag.

The state government has dismissed 16 of its employees for involvement in subversive activities. Following reimposition of curfew yesterday, the drive against subversives has been intensified. In Srinagar today, a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] patrol was fired at by the subversives. No casualty has been reported.

The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has accused the leaders of the National Conference and Congress-I of extending indirect support to the terrorists and killers of innocent people in the Kashmir Valley. In a statement in Jammu, the general secretary of the BJP unit of Jammu and Kashmir, Professor Chaman Lal Gupta, accused these leaders of playing a dubious role by condemning the actions of police and security forces against the subversives and miscreants to attack the Army vehicles carrying innocent children. [sentence as heard]

Troops Enforce Curfew

BK0403102790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0915 GMT 4 Mar 90

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, March 4 (AFP)—Indian Army and paramilitary troops were enforcing an indefinite curfew Sunday [4 March] in Kashmir where 36 people have been reported killed since Thursday [1 March] in connection with a bloody Muslim separatist campaign.

Residents said by telephone from Srinagar that troops in battle fatigues were cruising the deserted streets of the northern state's summer capital in jeeps and other vehicles fitted with light machine guns. Suspected Muslim militants were being arrested in house-to-house searches, the residents said. There were also reports of an acute shortage of medicine in the city's hospitals.

"The army is everywhere," said one resident. "There is no life here. The city is totally shut."

The round-the-clock curfew imposed early Friday [2 March] shut Srinagar's mainly Muslim population of 800,000 indoors and the picturesque city's streets were empty except for the movement of heavily-armed security forces.

Since Friday, 27 other cites and towns of the mainly Muslim Kashmir Valley have also been brought under the curfew, enforced by army troops and paramilitary forces with orders to shoot violators on sight.

The residents said that soldiers and paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) troopers were continuing a crackdown on Muslim separatists campaigning for secession in the border state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir government officials could not be reached for comment, and it was not known how many more suspects had been detained in the security sweeps which had resulted in more than 80 arrests by late Saturday.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said in a brief dispatch that Srinagar and the other areas under curfew were calm Sunday with no reports of violence.

The curfew was imposed after 34 people were killed and some 100 injured when security forces fired to break up several thousand Muslims who took to the streets of Srinagar Thursday chanting anti-India slogans, according to an unofficial toll.

News reports said that the marchers, who included people from virtually all walks of life, were demanding a UN-supervised plebiscite to determine the future of Kashmir, the only Muslim-dominated state in Hindu-majority India.

Two more people died early Saturday [3 March] when the BSF opened fire on a floating torchlit protest in

Srinagar's Dal Lake. One man was killed by the gunfire one while the second man fell into the water and drowned.

Unofficial reports have placed the death toll since Thursday at nearly 50 in Sringar, the scene of repeated mass protests in the past week.

The Kashmir administration has acknowledged only 15 deaths, and in a sudden move Friday, it ordered all Indian journalists assigned to Srinagar to leave. Foreign reporters were excluded earlier this year.

Two Srinagar residents Sunday reported "an all-around shortage" of essential commodities in the city, particularly medicines, and the latter charge was reiterated by a Kashmiri Muslim MP [member of Parliament] in New Delhi.

"There is a real shortage of medicines in all hospitals of Srinagar," said Saifuddin Soz, an MP belonging to the regional National Conference party which governed the state until it was put under federal rule in January.

"There seem to be no medicines in the hospitals," he said in an interview. "You know, there are wounded people there. Pharmaceutical firms have stopped supplying essential drugs to Kashmir."

He said he had brought to the notice of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh the medicine shortage and the law and order situation in the state which he described as "very critical." Mr. Soz added that he was also in touch with the Indian Red Cross.

India has accused Pakistan of backing the bloody Muslim campaign in Kashmir, a region disputed by the two neighbors. Pakistan has denied helping the Muslim guerrillas, but has denounced the killings by Indian security forces. India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since the subcontinent's 1947 partition and independence from Britain.

Thursday's violence was the worst since January 20-21 when 50 people died in clashes with security forces.

Congress-I Says Situation 'Grave'

BK0403124890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] The Congress-I has demanded that the center should take into confidence the whole nation on the happenings in the Kashmir valley. The party's working committee which discussed the issue in details at its meeting in New Delhi yesterday described the situation in the state as very grave.

Meanwhile, in the Kashmir valley the curfew continues in all the towns where it was imposed on Friday [2 March] morning. Army and paramilitary forces are patrolling the curfew-bound areas. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere since last evening.

Prime Minister: Nation Can Meet 'Any Threat'

BK0503092690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister today asserted that the nation is competent enough to meet any threat from across the border. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi this morning after the Golden Jubilee parade of the Central Reserve Police Force [CRPF], Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said the center wants to involve the people of Kashmir Valley in the normalization process. He said the National Front government has inherited the Kashmir problem and blamed the erstwhile Congress-I government for having allowed the situation to deteriorate. Mr. Singh said the army is already helping the civil authorities in Jammu and Kashmir in bringing back normalcy in the state.

On the issue of repoll in the Meham assembly constituency of Haryana, Mr. Singh said the government would wait for completion of the independent inquiry by the Election Commission.

Earlier, Mr. V.P. Singh participated in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the CRPF and took the salute of the parade. He also gave away gallantry and distinguished services medals to 47 CRPF personnel; six of these medals were given posthumously. Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister praised the multidimensional role of the CRPF in preserving the unity and integrity of the country.

The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed also participated in the celebrations.

Singh Resigns as Janata Dal Party President

BK0403155790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. V.P. Singh has resigned as the president of the Janata Dal. He submitted his resignation to the party secretary general, Mr. Ajit Singh, in New Delhi last night. The party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, told newsmen today that this has nothing to do with any controversy. Mr. Singh's decision was in accordance with his oft-repeated desire not to hold two posts and the assertion that he would resign soon after the assembly elections. The Political Affairs Committee requested Mr. Singh to continue as president until alternative arrangements are made, though no time frame has been fixed.

States Assembly Election Results Updated

BK0303042090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Efforts have begun to form governments in states which went to the polls on Tuesday last [27 February] with a clear picture emerging in all of them except in Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh where counting is still going on. Hectic political parleys are on in

Gujarat, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa over the formation of non-Congress-I governments.

In Pondicherry, the lieutenant governor, Mrs. Chandravati, has already invited the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham]-led leader, Mr. D. Ramchandran, to form a non-Congress-I government.

In Maharashtra, the Congress-I is poised to retain power. But in Bihar, the party has been suffering major reverses where the Janata Dal has consolidated its lead. The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has said that the Congress-I will stake its claim to form a new government with the support of independents. He said he expects to get the support of 11 independent MLA's [Members of Legislative Assembly]. The party has secured 142 seats out of the 287 declared so far in a 288-member house. With one more result yet to come in, the Congress-I is three short of an absolute majority on its own. The Shiv Sena-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] combine has bagged 92, the Janata Dal 25, and Independents 13. The newly-elected Congress-I legislature party is meeting in Bombay this morning to elect its leader.

In Bihar, the Janata Dal is maintaining its lead, bagging 103 seats of the 255 results declared so far. The Congress-I is second with 54 seats while the BJP has secured 26 seats. Our Patna correspondent reports that though the results from 68 constituencies are yet to come in, political activity to form a non-Congress-I government has gone into high gear. Meanwhile, 46 polling stations in Paliganj and Singeshwar constituencies are going to the polls again today completing the repoll process in over 1,150 polling stations. [passage omitted]

In Arunachal Pradesh, Congress-I has taken its tally to 12, while the Janata Dal got three seats out of the 19 results declared so far in a 60-member assembly. Four seats have gone to independents.

In Himachal Pradesh, where the BJP has secured an absolute majority, the party legislators will meet in Simla tomorrow to elect their leaders.

In Rajasthan, the BJP has emerged as the single largest party with 85 seats and Janata Dal comes next with 54 seats. The Congress-I has been relegated to the third position with 50. The BJP has advised its Rajasthan unit to seek support of the Janata Dal for forming the government. The BJP legislators are meeting in Jaipur today to elect their leader. Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee will attend the meeting as a central observer.

In Orissa, the newly-elected Janata Dal legislators will be meeting in Bhubaneswar tomorrow to elect their leader. The party has secured more than two-thirds majority in the state.

In Gujarat, a deadlock has been created as no single party has secured an absolute majority. The Janata Dal has emerged as the single largest party with 70 seats, following by BJP with 66. The Congress-I has secured 33 seats; 12 seats have gone to Independents and others. The president of the state unit of BJP, Mr. Shanker Singh Waghela, is reported to have staked his claim to form a ministry with the support of some independents.

In Madhya Pradesh, the newly-elected BJP legislators are meeting in Bhopal on Monday [5 March] to elect their leader. The party president, Mr. L.K. Advani, will be the party's central observer at the meeting. The party has secured more than two-thirds majority in the state.

'Terrorist' Violence Continues in Punjab

BK0303145690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] In Punjab, 12 persons, including seven terrorists, have been killed and 17 injured in separate incidents of terrorist violence since yesterday evening. According to an official spokesman, the hard core terrorist, Satvinder Singh alias Bhupinder Singh alias Bhola, and three other terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in the Tarn Taran area of Amritsar District last night. Bhola carried a reward of 25,000 rupees on his head.

In Gurdaspur District, terrorists shot dead three members of a rival gang in village Talwandi Goria.

In Hoshiarpur District, four persons were killed and 16 injured in a bomb blast at a bus stand in Hajipur Town yesterday evening.

In Ferozepore District, terrorists gunned down a farmer and injured another in Mukhu area.

Spokesman Rules Out Support for Tamil Homeland

BK0203163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] India today made it clear that it does not support any call for Eelam [separate homeland for Tamils] in any form by any section of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. In a suo moto statement, an official spokesman said the Indian Government has always made it clear in unambiguous terms that it supported the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. He was commenting on a resolution passed by the provincial council of Northeast Sri Lanka that it would henceforth function as the assembly of an independent state until March next year.

Commenting on the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne's, statement that India was pressurizing his government to sign the friendship treaty early, the spokesman said India was in no hurry and Sri Lanka could take as much time as it wanted. He said the question of applying pressure just did not arise because as far as India is concerned, the presence or absence of a treaty does not in any way affect the validity of agreements that already exists between the two countries.

The spokesman recalled the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral's, recent statement on the subject that the initiative for a friendship treaty had come from Sri

Lanka. During his visit here in January, Mr. Wijeratne had urged the Indian Government to hasten its response to the Sri Lankan draft of the proposed treaty. Mr. Gujral had said India kept its commitment and sent its comment on the Sri Lankan draft within the stipulated period of one week.

Kenyan President Arrives on Transit Visit

BK0303163690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and the visiting Kenyan president, Mr. Daniel arap Moi, have had discussions on bilateral and regional matters in New Delhi. They have also reviewed the international scene. Mr. Moi arrived in the capital this evening on a transit visit. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral.

Iran

KEYHAN: Hostages May Be Freed by 'Mid-Summer'

NC0303124190 Paris AFP in English 1239 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Tehran, March 3 (AFP)—The hostage crisis in Lebanon could end by mid-summer, thereby removing the last obstacle to normalized ties between Tehran and Washington, Iran's daily KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL reported Saturday.

The radical English-language paper said "It is sufficiently clear that something is in the works."

But it warned that an end to the hostage crisis would "in all likelihood only mark the acceleration of American war by other means against Iran."

"If we are correct in assuming that Washington and Teheran are talking about ending one phase of the Lebanon debacle then we suggest...someone pay attention to releasing the Americans mentioned herein in the U.S. and Iran," the paper said. [passage omitted]

KEYHAN said Iran should be aware of U.S. intentions in what might soon be a different political environment in the next weeks but gave no further details about the expected changes.

"If Washington and Tehran have any vision for improved ties in the post-hostage era, another opportunity awaits them," it said. "Hostages are also involved but these are Americans, in U.S. jails, victims of racism." [passage omitted]

KEYHAN on 'Hostages' in U.S., Iranian Jails

LD0303122890 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—A morning English-language daily Saturday said that if Washington and Tehran have any vision for "improved ties in the post-hostage era, another opportunity awaits them."

'KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL', in an editorial titled: 'Speaking of Hostages' wrote that other hostages are also involved among them Americans in U.S. jails who are the victims of racism.

The daily mentioned two reasons as why Iran should be concerned about the American penal system. "Firstly, the Islamic Republic says it is mandated to protect Muslims and the oppressed wherever they are. Secondly, a few Americans are incarcerated in Iranian prisons."

Further elaborating on the subject the daily said: "David Erwin Ribham is behind bars essentially because of an indiscretion committed by the then President Jimmy Carter. Ribham was an agro-industrialist who had invested some 16 million dollars in Iran before the revolution. He stayed on here and it is said he had even converted to Islam."

It added that during the U.S. Embassy crisis in Iran, Jimmy Carter had a direct telephone conversation with his boyhood friend which has so far cost Erwin a decade of his life.

"There is the better known story of self confessed CIA operative John Pattis...who in the midst of the Iran-Iraq war twice called in Iraqi air-strikes against the major communications center at Hamedan, resulting in the death of 12 Iranian civilians, dozens of injured and material damages in the neighborhood of 17 million dollars," added the article.

Elsewhere, the editorial pointed to the cases of Dhoruba al-Mujahid, a Muslim, and Geronimo Pratt, who have been sentenced to a combined total of nearly 40 years of imprisonment in the U.S. for political reasons.

"Of African descent, their cases hold many similarities to those of the IRA activists released from British jails in recent months: the Irish men were framed by the British police. Dhoruba and Geronimo met a similar fate at the hands of FBI."

"There is also the case of Khalifah Hamas 'Abdol Khalis... the leader of the Hanafi Muslim group in the U.S. who staged an armed protest against the quality of American justice regarding the slaughter of eight members of his immediate family, including infants and followers. He and his men commandeered three major institutions in Washington D.C. in the spring of 1977 which resulted in one accidental shooting death and serious injury to another."

The article concluded by saying that "if we are correct in assuming that Washington and Tehran are talking about ending one phase of the Lebanon debacle, then we suggest if those negotiations are successfully completed, someone pay attention to releasing the Americans mentioned herein, in the U.S. and Iran."

"Perhaps", the article suggested, "this is a sufficient pretext, for the Reverend Jesse Jackson to visit Tehran, or may be even Ramsey Clark. Both would be better."

Paper Expressing Private View

LD0503093790 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—The English daily "KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL" in its editorial Monday [5 March] rejected Western media claims that its editorial of March 3 represented the latest signal from the Tehran government on Western hostages in Lebanon. The paper stressed the well known dictums of the late leader Imam Khomeyni are very much in place in ties between Iran and the U.S.

"Neither the writer of that column (editorial) nor the author of this present one is a government spokesman or employee," said the paper adding, "no officials of any sort were consulted before putting pen to paper."

"What was and is now being expressed are privately held views," it emphasized.

Referring to distortion of the editorial by the Western media, it said, "the assumption put forward of contacts between Tehran and Washington is individual speculation devoid of any 'sign' quality."

It also pointed to the names of Dhoruba al-Mujahid, Geronimo Pratt and Khalifah Hamas 'Abdol Khalis plus his 10 associates who were mentioned in the editorial and said, "these are only samples of men being served up injustice."

On why the Reverend Jesse Jackson and former Attorney General Ramsey Clark were suggested to visit Tehran, the editorial said, "chroniclers of U.S. imperialism should have a certain respect for these two men." Referring to them as "opponents of Washington's foreign policy in general," it added "they were the first voices to openly contradict the objectives and the official death count in Panama."

The paper also recalled that months before the shah fled Iran, Mr. Clark was telling Washington that Imam Khomeyni was the new force to be reckoned within Iranian politics. "That sage advice fell on deaf ears."

The paper further reiterated "both Messrs. Clark and Jackson have demonstrated, over a number of years, a certain empathy for Muslim and Third World people totally lacking for example, in the Reagan-Bush, Bush-Quayle duos."

"These men however, are, like us, only private citizens," said the paper.

Editorial: Hostage Issue U.S. Propaganda Tool

NC0503120090 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Feb 90 p 2

[Commentary: "The Western Hostages and Iran"]

[Text] Speaking about the hostages, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said: "We should find practical and humanitarian ways to free the foreign hostages because this issue is being heavily exploited by the Westerners to present a bad picture of Islam and the Muslims."

The truth is that the Westerners and, specifically, America and Britain do not want the hostage issue to be solved. They are using the hostages as the best and most effective element in their propaganda and psychological war against Islam, the Muslims, the Islamic Revolution, the Muslims' awakening movement, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. There is no doubt that hostage-taking was used as an emergency measure by a suppressed nation which did not know how to fight and resist and had no other means of doing so. But if the situation that emerged turned the hostages into a fiery bullet, the only outcome of this was that the face of Islam and the wave of Islamic awakening was distorted, and the West used the continuation of the hostages issue as a means to reap constant benefits. According to 'Allamah Fadlallah:

"We want a solution which will close this file so that the Islamic Jihad can use new methods and advances with a new approach and new way of thinking. We should regard the issue from all its aspects in order to achieve the interests of Islam."

From all aspects means that everything has its own time and place. When the American and French Marines were in Lebanon, the Resistance Movement and the Islamic Jihad forced them to leave by destroying their bases. In order to show the extent of its oppression and to make its voice heard, it took the agents of the West's information media hostage. Conditions have changed since then. Conditions in Lebanon, throughout the region, and in the entire world have changed. When the Islamic Awakening Movement is on the move like a raging river, it is a pity for the eddy of hostage taking to continue and give the West the opportunity to use all its resources of propaganda and political and psychological warfare to portray Islam as tantamount to a system of assassination and hostage-taking. Moreover, by ignoring the Iranian hostages that have been taken, the Westerners have tried to make it seem that only a few Americans and British have been taken hostage and have tried to blame the Islamic Republic for this. By blowing the hostage issue out of proportion and by constantly making insinuations, they want to discredit the nucleus of Islamic awakening—Iran—in the eyes of all the nations. The pen is in their hands. But there is no doubt that the Westerners do not attach an iota of importance to the lives of the hostages. Under these circumstances we should not allow them to portray the face of the Islamic Republic as the face of hostage-taking. If we do this, then there will

be no more need for the Syrian foreign minister's freedom-seeking and democratic gestures and his remark that:

"It is in Iran's interests to cooperate with Syria toward the freedom of the hostages."

What has been the benefit to Iran of the holding of the hostages that will enable it to benefit from their release? Lebanon's Muslim groups decided to use the hostages at one time as a cry of protest. These same groups can free the hostages now. Thus there will be no need for the trade of diplomacy. If the Islamic Republic of Iran has any interests in this issue—which it does—it is only the freedom of the Iranian hostages and nothing more. However, the Syrian Government will undoubtedly have benefits to reap from this issue.

UK Media Ignore 'Positive' Pohl Report

LD0203183290 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] London, Mar. 2, IRNA—This Monday's publication in Geneva, of a 76-page report on human rights in Iran, which denied many of the charges levelled against the Islamic Republic, was ignored by most of the media in Britain, particularly the radio and television stations.

The UN report was published at the end of an eight-day visit to Iran in January this year, by the UN's special representative, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, who thanked the Iranian authorities for their co-operation and clearly denied many of the charges against Iran, falsely made by opposition and terrorist groups.

For the British media to ignore positive portrayals of Iran, is not a new trend, for in the past eleven years, since the Islamic revolution there, the British media moguls have considered the faults of Muslims, and particularly Iran, to be of exceedingly greater interest.

According to the UN report, Pohl met "four persons shown on lists of 'executed' persons", and was "able to verify" that they "were still alive" and that the list was baseless. He also met with the religious minorities' representatives in Iran and found that they are free to practice their religions in the Islamic Republic, in their churches and synagogues.

The INDEPENDENT, the only British daily newspaper which carried an article about Iran on Wednesday, 48 hours after the UN's report was published, chose to ignore it, giving importance instead to a new, baseless report, published Tuesday by an Iranian anti-Islamic Republic terrorist group based in Baghdad.

The British paper, in a new wave of publicity for the so-called "People's Mujahedin" (Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation - MKO), a terrorist group, which fought alongside Iraq in the war and echoes the war-mongering Iraqi propaganda against Iran, criticised the United Nations saying that it "has deliberately played down the extent of human rights violations in Iran as part of a deal to secure the freedom of Western hostages in Lebanon."

The fact that even this terrorist group's claim was denied on Tuesday by a UN-appointed special investigator appears not to have been that important for the paper. In addition, on July 18 last year, the daily in its front page article carried one of MKO's baseless claims, that Iran had executed Seyyed Shirazi, an Iranian major general, and Hasani Sa'di, but both of them are alive and still on duty.

Before the UN visit, the same British paper published another story, written by its Middle East editor saying that Iran has taken a big gamble by inviting UN officials to investigate alleged violations of human rights in Iran.

It is not strange that the daily which had published many baseless reports on alleged human rights violations in Iran, based on untrustworthy testimony by terrorist groups, would not accept the UN report, but instead continue to publicise the same baseless report which has brought the paper's reputation under question.

The TIMES, another British daily, joined the INDEPENDENT Wednesday, by publishing another baseless report from the same sources claiming that 300 people have been killed in Iran while taking part in an anti-government demonstration in the country.

The TIMES was isolated with this false story, even among their Western allies, who would normally like to publish something against Iran, but on this occasion did not. It seems that no other paper employs a "Goebbels" (Hitler's propaganda chief in World War 2, who said when telling a lie, tell a big one so people will believe it). No other paper reported the false claim reported by the TIMES.

Yazdi Says 'No Differences' Over Rushdie Edict

LD0203180290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] A consultation meeting on judicial issues was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, and with the participation of judicial authorities of the country.

In this meeting the head of the judiciary, on the occasion of the anniversary of the issuance of the edict of Imam Khomeyni, sanctified be his noble soul, regarding Salman Rushdie, the apostate author of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" and the propaganda of foreign media on this issue, said:

Despite the propaganda of Western media about the existence of different stances regarding the edict, it should be said, first of all, that the analysis by Western media is completely wrong and there are no differences in positions regarding this edict. In fact, the same thing which was mentioned by the imam of the ummah about

the author of "The Satanic Verses" has also been reaffirmed by the esteemed leader [Khamene'i], the president, and judicial authorities, and all of them have revolved around the same point.

Secondly, despite the assertion of Western media, the meaning of the remarks of officials is not that the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran is indifferent toward accepted international regulations. We believe that these regulations should be respected and in practice international relations with other countries are based on the same regulations. In fact, it was Salman Rushdie, the author of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses," who violated international regulations by insulting the sanctities of the Muslims of the world.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, in the continuation of the consultation meeting on judicial issues, the current legal issues of the country were discussed and necessary studies were made.

Commentary on BBC Closure in Tehran

NC0303110290 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Feb 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "An Answer to the People's Demands"]

[Text] In protest of the British Government's malicious steps against the Government of Iran, the Foreign Press and Mass Media Department of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance ordered that the BBC offices be closed.

This was the first practical reaction by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the British Government's hostile attitude during the past few days. This decision was described in a statement as the "response to the demand of the heroic Iranian ummah."

This emphasis takes on a special meaning, especially when one considers the resolution that was issued during the protest demonstrations against Britain. It shows that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches special importance to the just demands of the people in confronting the British Government's hostile attitude.

By taking this into consideration, the impudent London officials should be told that they should expect more avenging decisions against Britain. The decision by the Ministry of Islamic Guidance to close the BBC offices in Iran has to be supported. But it is clear that this decision is not enough. This is why the officials of the Islamic Republic have decided to find more effective actions against Britain. But in this phase when an answer is being given to the rising sentiments of the people against Britain, the officials should act more quickly in fulfulling the people's requests and to show more persistence and sensitivity in completing their studies.

The resolution issued at the end of the anti-British demonstrations also pointed to the following: sentencing and executing veteran British spy Roger Cooper; reviewing economic and commercial relations with Britain and introducing the maximum of limitations in this field; and recalling the Iranian students who are living in Britain because of the absence of security in view of the malicious decisions adopted by the British Government against Iranian citizens.

The fact that one of the people's emphatic requests which was stated in the resolution issued at the end of the anti-British demonstrations was met in less than 48 hours shows that the implementation of the demands for punitive measures against Britain is being seriously considered.

Britain should be punished and boycotted because of its impudence and its treacherous stand against Islam and Muslims and especially because of its hostile attitude toward Iranian nationals.

Everyone has seen how Britain has tried, with extreme malice, to get all the Western countries on its bandwagon in its disgraceful efforts. But when matters were clarified for the other Western countries, we saw how they all ignored London and left their British crony alone.

Britain is alone in the Rushdie affair and it should be punished for its impudence in this affair. Britain displayed the depth of its maliciousness in the Rushdie affair. But the events that followed showed that no country is prepared to participate in Britain's foolishness and impudence against one billion Muslims.

Britain is the nest of Satan. All facts show that the root of all the disgraceful news and propaganda mischief in the Rushdie affair begins and ends with Britain and that it is the intelligence and information services on the British island that pulls the strings of this disgraceful act.

It is a source of pride that the entire system of the Islamic Republic of Iran agrees that Britain's nose should be rubbed in the dirt and that the impudent and rude British should be effectively punished because of their hostile stand. The Foreign Ministry, the ministries that have a say in economic decisions, and the country's judiciary should take into consideration the dimensions of the rage and hatred of the people toward Britain and the fact that the people are impatiently waiting for practical decisions against Britain and expedite the announcement of the outcomes of their decisions.

Britain wanted to isolate us with the Rushdie affair. But it isolated itself. Britain wanted to crush the Imam. But the grandeur of the Imam increased with his historic decree. Britain wanted to denigrate the world of Islam. But the despicable face of the enemies of Islam was revealed instead.

These acts and gestures by the British court date back to the era of Great Britain, and the British politicians appear to be unaware that that era has ended and that they are nothing but the owners of a small island now. We should not tolerate such acts by such a disgraceful government, even if it is again spoken through the mouth of Rushdie. The decisions by the British Government to

expel the Iranian students, even though a sign of their impotence, should not remain unanswered. It is true that the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran are studying this and want to avoid hasty decisions. But further delay in announcing decisions is logically not in our interests; and when a defeated and belittled government like the government of the island of Britain ridicules a revolutionary nation and supports insults against Islam, more decisiveness should be shown.

Commentary Calls for Action Against Britain

NC0103195990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 20 Feb 90 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Time Has Come for a Practical Warning to London"]

[Text] Attention continues to be focused on the march held to protest Britain's cultural plots and the resolution adopted at the end of this march.

The participants in the vast demonstrations, which started at Tehran University and culminated in front of the former British Embassy, voiced a variety of logical and interesting demands, and it seems that the time is now ripe for the resolution they adopted to be implemented.

The marchers called for the execution of British spy Roger Cooper. In view of the restrictions London has placed on Iranian nationals, they also called on the Majles to introduce a bill restricting economic and commercial relations with Britain. They demanded that Iranian students be recalled from Britain in view of the absence of security for them there.

The marchers once again expressed their support for Imam Khomeyni's decree on Rushdie, vowing to implement this Islamic decree as members of the Hezbollah army of the world. There are sensitive points in this resolution which must be considered carefully as they are the demands of the people.

The London government should take these demands seriously and know that the points in the resolution will be implemented with determination. This resolution reflects the will of the Hezbollah ummah, and the people—this strong backbone of the resolution—will ensure that it is implemented in full.

The people—this force which guarantees that the resolution will be implemented—will be successful in their efforts. They will speak their just word and stand firm.

The London government should understand that it has no choice but to retreat and accept reality. However, we cannot sit by and wait for this to happen.

The time has come for action. If Britain needed time to understand this reality, one year should have been more than enough. From now on, when Britain hears of decisions and steps adopted by the Muslims, it will realize that it did not correctly assess the situation and lost many opportunities. Athough it has had one year, Britain continues to act with impudence, as shown by the imprisonment of this nation's children on empty charges. The expulsion of Iranians from Britain cannot remain unanswered.

The people's demands are clear. Britain must have realized that the people are not joking and demand action. It would have been better if this action had been taken and Britain dealt with much earlier, but today is a good enough day to start. This start will bring us glory and honor and disgrace Britain as the impudent enemy of Islam, God willing.

Leaflets Call for Protests in Tehran on 4 Mar

TA0203182090 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] According to a report by our fellow strugglers from Tehran, widespread demonstrations were held today in Nezamabad Street by the freedom-seeking citizens. Some of the regime's mercenary agents fired on the people, resulting in the injury of a number of struggling compatriots. The regime's agents detained and arrested some of the freedom-seekers in this place.

In another development, leaflets have been printed and distributed in the capital in which the people have been called on to take part in demonstrations expected for 4 March.

War Refugees Demonstrate, Support Resolution 598

LD0503123290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] A number of the imposed war refugees from the west of the country staged a demonstration this morning, in protest of the continued occupation of parts of Islamic Iran's territory by the Iraqi regime. The demonstrators called on the UN secretary general to provide the necessary means for the withdrawal [of Iraqi forces] from the occupied towns and villages, by expediting the exact implementation of the Resolution 598, and deploying international mechanisms. Our correspondent reports on the demonstrations:

[Unidentified correspondent] During the demonstration staged by a number of the imposed war's refugees on behalf of the inhabitants of the villages and towns of Qasr-e Shirin, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Naftshahr, Khosravi, and Gilan-e Gharb which are occupied by the Iraqi forces, the demonstrators marched toward the UN High Commission for Refugees, voicing their protest to the continued occupation of parts of Iranian territory by the aggressive forces of the Iraqi regime. Chanting slogans, the demonstrators called on the UN secretary general to apply international initiatives in order to provide the necessary means for liberating Iranian territories occupied by the Iraqi regime.

At the end of the demonstration, the marchers assembling around the UN High Commission for Refugees

read out a scroll signed by over 20,000 of the inhabitants from the occupied regions, later submitting it to a member of the commission. Part of the scroll states: Despite your excellency's efforts and the goodwill of the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials, the Iraqi regime continues to occupy our towns and villages, barring us from returning. We hereby call on the honorable secretary general and all peace-seeking countries and communities in the world to employ their utmost effort toward the evacuation of the [occupied] towns and villages, and to make the necessary arrangements for the return and expulsion of the occupiers.

War Disabled Rally in Tehran, Support Leader

LD0203231990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1930 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] On the auspicious birthday of Abolfazl al-Abbas, peace be upon him, today, which has been named as the Day of the Disabled in Iran, the disabled of the Islamic revolution organized a glorious march from the U.S. den of espionage [former U.S. Embassy] toward the Friday prayers site. At the end of their procession the marchers read out a nine-point resolution. In the resolution they laid emphasis on the durability of their resistance vis-a-vis any plot against the Islamic revolution as well as obedience to the leader of the Islamic revolution and continuation of Imam Khomeyni's path. The ralliers expressed their support for all liberating revolutionary Islamic movements especially in Lebanon, occupied Palestine, Iran, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world, and they called for the formation of Hezbollah resistant nuclea against the interests of arrogances. [as heard]

President Stresses Armed Forces' Role

LD0403123190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] At a gathering of ground forces commanders today, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that we seriously seek lasting peace and have always worked to prevent the outbreak of war. He said that the Armed Forces should always be ready and in training, even in peacetime.

He added: The people and the Armed Forces were able to foil one of the biggest plots hatched by our enemies. Although this was costly for Iran, Iraq, and the region, and the country's dearest offspring were sacrificed for the revolution, it became clear to all that when aggressors and hegemonists are strong it is the power of the people that preserves humanity, and that nowadays whoever is powerful rules.

He said: Throughout the war Iran declared that Iraq and her international protectors did not seek peace. This was proved to the world after the resolution [598] was issued. Ever since, neither the United Nations, the Security Council, the world's big powers, nor the small countries in the region have taken effective steps toward the establishment of peace.

All this proves that the country can defend her rights only if she is strong. This forces us to spend a portion of our financial, economic, and human resourses on gaining military strength. So long as the policy of world government is based on bullying, this tragedy unfortunately exists for mankind.

Referring to the 10-year experience of the war he said: Today the country's authorities know full well how to be strong. All the commanders, and even our ordinary people, know what factors are important on the battlefield. They also know how favorably Iran is placed in terms of manpower, self-sacrifice on the battlefield, and military facilities.

He added: Past experience has proved to us that training, organization, battlefield discipline, intelligence, and the use of electronic equipment and advanced up-to-date weapons are necessary. The president stressed: More attention should be paid to the manufacture of arms. Of course preparations have been made for the manufacture of practically every type of weapon in the country. Some have brought results and others are near completion.

The president said that faith and belief in Islamic tenets and divine guidance are other strong points of the Iranian Armed Forces. He added: For a Muslim combatant, maximum effort on the battlefield brings a mix of reward in the hereafter and victory in this world. Such faith makes man invincible.

He said in conclusion: The government has allocated the necessary sums for providing the facilities required by the Armed Forces. The commander in chief pays special attention to matters relating to the Armed Forces. The people, too, value the Armed Forces.

According to this report, during the meeting, which was also attended by Mr Safa'i, head of the Armed Forces political and ideological office, Ground Forces Commander Brigadier General Hasani-Sa'di submitted a short report on the activities of the various units of the forces. Declaring total allegiance to the commander-in-chief, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, he added: Today, the ground forces are so strong that they can defend all the frontiers of Islamic Iran and maintain the necessary security for the reconstruction period.

President Addresses Industrialists 3 Mar

LD0303135590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani delivered a speech at today's opening ceremony of a seminar convened by the managers of companies and factories under the protection of the national industries organization. Having expressed his felicitations on the anniversary of the auspicous birth of their holinesses Imam Hosayn,

Imam Sajjad, and Abu-al Fazl 'Abbas—may God's benediction be upon them and their scion—he gave a comprehensive analysis of the country's economic situation, reiterating the government's plans and policies on increasing the production capacity of the country's industries, and the full exploitation of the total capacity of the entire production units during the era of reconstruction, aimed at achieving economic growth in the country.

The president, while elucidating the government plans on increasing the production capacity of the industrial and agricultural units, aimed at decreasing fluctuations in the present market, said: In view of the present conditions in the country, the sole solution to resolving the economic problems and creating activity among society lies in increasing the level of production. At present, we are not facing too many political, cultural, or military problems; our problems are fundmentally due to a production shortage.

Referring to the country's past economic condition, the president added: In the past decade, in order to provide necessary goods for the people we were forced into expending foreign exchange—at the rate of 70 rials [as heard]—gained from the sale of oil. That was due to the prevalence of particular conditions in the country, and also because we wished to alleviate the pressure exerted on the people due to problems emanating from the war. Consequently, wherever there was a shortage of foreign currency—hence demand and supply disequilibrium—brokers and salesmen would establish a monopoly, as a result of which the price of commodities depended totally on the middlemen.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while stressing the point that the people's needs should be met through the line of production, added: It would not be in the government's interest to pursue the past trend—even if supplied with adequate foreign exchange—and provide all commodities at the foreign exchange [rate] of 70 rials. Our country would be saved if people's necessities were produced domestically and placed at their disposal at an optimal price. To provide goods at the past prices would be a disservice to the people and the country.

While expounding on government policy pertaining to the allocation of all kinds of foreign exchange—government rate, export rate, and free rate—in order to provide necessity goods, either through imports or domestic production, Mr. Rafsanjani said: Subsidies are only placed on basic commodities. To provide the remainder, the intention is to use foreign exchanges at export and free rates, naturally the net price of the goods produced will be substantially less than that of the free market.

Remarking on the positive experiences gained in the use of free rate foreign exchange in the production of aluminum, and its resulting impact on, for example, lowering the price, the president said: We carried out that policy in the field of aluminum production; we were successful to the extent that today it is the supplier who is looking for a buyer. We intend to carry out the same policy in producing pipes and castings. In the same connection, the president referred to the government facilities pertaining to the supply of rial credit allocations for units which are devoid of the means to purchase foreign exchange at export or preferential-competitive rates, and said: Those units which for some reason do not possess the capital needed to meet their foreign currency needs, will be exempted from the payment in cash of over 25 percent of the fee [as heard] on their foreign currency requirement.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani went on to emphasize the necessity of resolving problems and obstacles in the way of production units, and added: We have requested all production units to send us a compiled list of their problems so that we may provide them with solutions. Those who do not face any problems should embark on steps toward the attainment of a 100-percent capacity ceiling rate, or even above that, without hesitation.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed activation in the production units as the most important way of absorbing the cash circulation among the people, and pointed out that factories, merchants, minor and handicraft industries should employ their utmost capacity in order to increase the rate of people's earnings and purchasing power, and thus make the country's economy flourish.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that one fault of our industries lies in the fact that a section depends on foreigners, and said: In the next few years, when industries such as petrochemicals, steel, and their like, become operational, the dependence of the country's industries on foreigners will be reduced.

Reiterating the importance of improving the quality of domestically produced commodities, the president said: We expect our producers to enhance the quality of their produce so that they can compete against foreign produce, enter into export markets, and diminish the dependence of any production unit by absorbing foreign exchange earnings.

Concluding his speech, the president placed the country's industrialists among the forerunners of the revolution and the country's crusaders, and added: Our great revolution attained victory, through reliance on Islam. Now we have to show Islam that we are Muslims who are capable of implementing the Koranic commands. I hope that we and you will be good soldiers to the Lord of the Age—may God hasten his noble event.

Prior to the president's speech, Mr Ne'matzadeh, the minister of industries, submitted a report to the president on the activities of factories protected by the national industries during the past decade.

Foreign Ministry Adviser on Islamic Leadership

NC2302081990 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 15 Feb 90 p 16

["Weekly Political Newsletter" by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Foreign Ministry adviser]

[Text] 1. One of the main objectives of Islamic Iran is to move toward a unified Islamic ummah, one in which unity is crystallized through emulation of one guardianship of Muslims not only because of its strength, but also because of its charisma.

We used to believe that world infidelity wanted to dismember the Islamic world so that it could plunder the abundant wealth and resources of the Islamic ummah. Today, however, it seems that the forces of world infidelity are not content with this and are directly and overtly pitched against Islam. A French politician said: "The headscarves of the Muslim girls in France actually seek to [word illegible] French values."

Today, the screen has been removed and the enlightened thinkers of the Islamic world cannot doubt that the domineering infidel forces of the world recognize no limits or boundaries in their efforts to dominate the Islamic world and have blatantly attacked the path of our dear Islam. The 1-billion-strong Islamic ummah is thus faced with the choice of comprehending and selecting the correct path—that is, the defense of Islam and the benefits of its honor and prestige—or plunging headlong into the abyss of humiliation and rootlessness.

2. As regards the ummah today, "awakening" and "awareness" can be more instrumental than anything else in galvanizing the momentum of our movement. However, this awakening should not be confined just to listening to some programs or statements on our overseas transmissions. This awakening should blossom and grow in the midst of the Islamic ummah.

Iran is undoubtedly the cradle of the Islamic world, but this does not mean that it should dictate to the rest of the Islamic world what daily practical steps this Islamic movement is to take. Such centralization is a characteristic of the Marxist way of thinking and does not nurture awareness; rather, it only achieves the opposite.

Our mission with regard to Islam goes far deeper than this at the present juncture. Today, the Islamic ummah has focused its attention on our words and deeds. It learns from us, it makes assessments and assimilates lessons. It is in such circumstances that we should attain the leadership of the Islamic world.

3. Our foreign policy cannot be restrained within the confines of diplomatic relations. What ostensibly appears as a diplomatic move is usually geared to two main objectives: Safeguarding the Islamic system in Iran and paving the way for the Islamic ummah's leadership. Of course, there can be no doubt that the protection of the Islamic system is our top priority and does not detract from the importance of our mission. In my opinion, the Islamic Republic's active and calculated presence today should be viewed from the perspective of the entire Islamic world. We must prepare ourselves to deal with the situation prevailing in the world at present, but we must also adopt a policy that will enable us to capitalize on this situation for pursuing our real objectives.

We should not imagine that our specific objectives necessarily imply that we follow a fixed and unchanging policy. On the contrary, we should liberate ourselves from a reactive policy, which ties our hands and feet, and adopt a dynamic approach that gives us room to maneuver.

IRGC Marks Guards Day by Renewing Covenants

LD0203182790 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] On the eve of 3 Sha'ban [1 March 90], the anniversary of the blessed birthday of His Holiness Husayn ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him, the Guards Day, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], while renewing their covenent with His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, and renewing their covenant with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, announced in a statement:

The IRGC with its strong and powerful composition in the context of air, ground, and naval units, and with all its capabilities is lending its ears to the orders of the leader and guardian of the cause of the Muslims and is ready on all stages to safeguard the gains of the Islamic revolution until the achievement of the lofty aspirations of this revolution.

In the same connection, the deputy commander of the IRGC, in an interview with reporters, explained the programs of the IRGC in marking Guards Day. He said: [Video shows deputy commander talking to reporters] The great gathering of the commanders and officials of the Guards Corps in the main headquarters of the corps, meeting with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, and in convenant with his eminence the imam at the side of his eminence's sacred shrine with the presence of the model units from the [revolution] committees, their presence in the ranks of the Friday prayers, the performance of more than 600 cultural, artistic, and sports progams in headquarters and bases, the publication of books and photographs, together with the special book "The Message of the Revolution," and organizing games among all pupils with the assistance of the Education and Training [ministry] in the composition of articles under the title of guarding the Islamic revolution, and the choosing of the winners of the competition of Sahife-ye Imam' [the Imam's Book].

Azari-Qomi Addresses Friday Congregation 23 Feb

NC0203220690 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
24 Feb 90 p 10

[Report on Ayatollah Azari-Qomi's address to the Friday congregation in Tehran on 23 February]

[Text] Theological instructor Ayatollah Azari-Qomi delivered a speech to the Tehran Friday congregation prior to the sermons. Speaking on the religious mission of the holy prophet, peace be upon him, he said: God Almighty sent the prophet to a country which was at zero or below zero from the cultural, economic, social, moral, and political point of view, to attend to the material, moral affairs of humanity. The mission of the prophet, peace be upon him, was bestowed upon him on the Arabian peninsula. This is the greatest proof that Islam is a comprehensive body of laws with the ability to administer the human society.

He added: Two things are necessary to administer a society: one is law, the best compendium of which is the Koran; and the second is the person who executed the law, the best person for the task, the holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Thus the prophet took Muslims to the highest pinnacle of prestige and today our Islamic society is based on these two factors.

Ayatollah Azari-Qomi stressed: It is always necessary that an imam and a leader implement divine laws. This is why the Prophet 'Ali was selected by God Almighty as successor of the holy Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him.

During his speech, he elaborated at length on the social, economic, and political circumstances of the Arabian Peninusula during the prophet of Islam's divine call to be a prophet. He also cited various works of Muslim and non-Muslim writers regarding the greatness of the personality of the holy Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and the complete and absolute richness of the holy Koran's divine text.

Regarding the movement initiated by Imam Khomeyni, may God be pleased with him, he said: Imam Khomeyni was the messenger of the Islamic Revolution which transported the Westernized, debauched, and retarded country of Iran to the heights of honor. In remarking that an imam and a leader are always necessary and that God chooses such an imam and leader he said: To administer Muslims' affairs, God Almighty bestowed the responsibility of his creatures and his religion on the prophet, and according to Imam Khomeyni, this principle is in complete harmony with the rule of the supreme jurisconsult. Thus according to the Faqih, the leader has complete jurisdiction over the affairs of the country and the Muslims. He added: Even now some of the primitive pseudoclerics do not seem to have grasped the idea that when the imam states that the supreme jurisconsult is even authorized to ban prayers and fasting for the Islamic government's safety, they do not have the courage to object directly to the imam and voice their objections to me. They even try to incite some of the great martyrs' families. Here I wish to state that the martyrs families have sacrificed their dear ones for Islam and they should not be lured by these ignorant Satans.

Referring to the imam, who considered the system and the government mandatory and a priority over everything else, he added: Obedience to God is only possible by following the Prophet's path; obedience to the Prophet is possible by treading the path of His Holiness 'Ali; obedience to 'Ali's path is obeying Imam Khomeyni; and obedience to Imam Khomeyni implies obedience to his successor, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution. It is a bounty for the Muslims that the disciple of Imam Khomeyni, may God be pleased with him, has been selected as the Muslims' leader.

Referring to the issue that the Velayat and the administration were handed from the holy Prophet (peace be upon him) to His Holiness Prophet 'Ali (peace be upon him) and from the Prophet 'Ali to the other imams and has reached the jurisconsults through the Lord of the Ages (may God expedite his noble advent), Ayatollah Azari-Qomi said: His Eminence Imam Khomeyni said that the Velayat-e Faqih is a department of the government and of the Prophet of God's rule. This means that he was the absolute ruler, and therefore a Faqih also has absolute jurisdiction. Therefore the powers of the sources of emulation, scholars, the president, the economy, war, peace, radio, television, and all other powers have always been delegated to the supreme jurisconsult in the lifetime of the Faqih who is the leader.

He said: During the time of the holy prophet (peace be upon him), the orders to combat numerous vices were given. However, when 'Ali reached the seat of authority, he remained silent on the prevalence of certain vices. This does not mean that in any way he was superior to the prophet, peace be upon him.

Alluding to the mandatory injunctions and the practical treatise, he said: Emulation of the imam is permitted, but certain directives by a person who is no longer alive are not to be emulated unless His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i endorses them. This is not to be interpreted as superseding the imam.

Comparing His Eminence Imam Khomeyni with Ayatollah Khamene'i, Ayatollah Azari-Qomi said: We do not wish to say that His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i is in the same category as Imam Khomeyni, as there was also a vast difference between the holy prophet of Islam, peace be upon him, and His Holiness Prophet 'Ali. However, in the same way that obedience to His Holiness 'Ali is obedience to the holy prophet, peace be upon him, obedience to Ayatollah Khamene'i is also obedience to Imam Khomeyni.

He said: The obedience to Imam Khomeyni, may God be pleased with him, should be through Ayatollah Khamene'i, otherwise it has no legitimacy [mashru'iyat]. He added: The imam is the founder of the Islamic

Revolution and is an exceptional personality of this age. He is the messenger of the revolution, and all glory is for him.

He stressed everything pertaining to the revolution until Judgment Day, until the advent of the Lord of the Ages, may it be expedited, is from the imam, but what can we do? The imam has been taken from us.

In another part of his address, Ayatollah Azari-Qomi referred to the supreme jurisconsult's powers in implementing divine injunctions as well as in the interest of the religion and the country and said: The meaning of the vice regency of the jurisconsult is that in all the country's affairs, the only thing binding is that which the guardian of the Muslims' cause His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i deems imperative. Therefore, organizations, institutions such as radio and television, the judiciary, the Corps and the Armed Forces should not utter remarks such as: We have permission from Imam Khomeyni, and there is no need for any further sanction from Ayatollah Khamene'i. This is not legitimate because the supreme jurisconsult promulgates the divine injunctions in accordance with the time and place of a situation.

He added: The government and leadership are directly linked with the theological seminaries, and his eminence the imam placed great importance on this. Merely being literate is not enough to administer the country. There are certain other conditions as well: the leader should be a manager, and he should be efficient and honest and have dozens of similar qualifications.

He added: Even though our dear imam, may God be pleased with him, did not require the association of the seminarians' affirmation, or the endorsement signatures of 12 qualified jurisprudents [mojtaheds], Imam Khomeyni's leadership was endorsed by 12 mojtaheds and Ayatollah Khamene'i's leadership has been endorsed by more than 60 mojtaheds.

Ayatollah Azari-Qomi spoke with special reference to circumstances of time and place in issuing directives and said: His eminence the imam had said that the exigencies of time and place should always be considered. For example, during the war it is possible that certain forbidden things may be declared legal or certain obligations may be waived.

He added: Time and place are effective in issuing directives. Therefore in matters of government, emulating someone who is not living is not permissible, so one should emulate a living person. However in religious theory, in the mandatory injunctions and directives in the practical treatises, it is permissible to emulate a person who is not alive. This means we cannot act on the rulings his eminence the imam issues in his lifetime, because it is possible that the conditions of time and place have changed.

He stressed: A few days ago, the esteemed son of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni cited Imam Khomeyni saying that during the time of the shah, his eminence the imam considered it unlawful even to listen to the news on the radio, but today music being disseminated on the radio is considered legal because we have an Islamic government in which the supreme jurisconsult has to be alive.

While thanking the seminarians for their questions on wealth, Ayatollah Azari-Qomi said: I have discussed the issue at length, and RESALAT wishes to publish it, but I did not deem it appropriate because it is possible that what I consider unlawful, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i may consider appropriate. As his eminence the imam ordained, we should obey the views of the supreme jurisconsult.

In answer to objections by the primitive ones who asked him why he did not dye his beard when the holy Prophet had asked the Muslims to do so, he said that this decree was issued at a time when Islam was still not strong and there were mostly aged men in the armies. This could have possibly given the impression of weakness to the infidels, but now the condition does not dictate such an action.

Expressing his appreciation for the nation's extensive presence in the 11 February marches he said: We should learn the worth of this nation and this revolution. If we become indifferent to the issues pertaining to the revolution and we are to forfeit this bounty, there is a danger that God Almighty may withdraw some major blessings from us.

Ayatollah Azari-Qomi emphasized: The most important divine obligation is the Islamic Government, and it was for this reason that his eminence the imam said that prayers, fasting, and the pilgrimage can be abstained from for the sake of preserving the Islamic government.

He stressed the obligation of every individual, Muslims and others, regarding their responsibility for Salman Rushdie's execution and reminded: Even Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, should take direct steps for Salman Rushdie's execution as a human obligation on her part, for his sacrilege against true Islamic sanctities.

He asked the revolutionary Iranian nation to be patient regarding ameliorating conditions in various fields and to give the revolutionary government of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani the opportunity to tend to affairs in the most favorable conditions under His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i's guidance.

Minister Nuri Comments on Unrest at Football Game

LD0203175190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] On the eve of the anniversary birthday of His Holiness Imam Husayn, peace be on him, and revolution guards day, Mr Nuri, minister of interior and the representative of the Supreme Jurisconsult with the Islamic

Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], said at a press conference that the IRGC and the security forces are prepared to implement the aspirations of His Holiness the Lord of the Martyrs in the Islamic homeland. He then offered his appreciation for the services of those institutions during the Islamic revolution and emphasized their courage on numerous occasions.

At the press conference, referring to the march by the people of our country on 11 February, he said: The grand and million-strong march was a decisive reply to the global arrogance which was trying to insinuate that the people were no longer on the scene. The glory of the march, which was the first pledge of massive allegiance after the passing away of his holiness the imam, frightened arrogance so much that it decided to use some means to impair its greatness.

The interior minister added: The global arrogance created a propaganda sensation out of a minor event at a Tehran sports ground—an event which came about because of the cancellation of a football match; the reason for cancellation was simply a lack of planning and adverse weather conditions. Then the gobal arrogance began to put out unfounded rumors every day with the intention of overshadowing the million-strong march of 11 February.

Referring to the issue of narcotics in the country, Mr Nuri said: during the past three months the Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved very good successes. More than eight tons of narcotics have been discovered and impounded. As well as showing the failure of the plot by the smugglers it also shows the success of the security forces in their campaign against the smugglers. We hope to be more successful than before through the planning which we have at hand.

Pakistani Offical Holds Meetings in Tehran 2-3 Mar

Views Cooperation With Nurbakhsh

NC0203102790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan, acting Pakistani foreign minister [title as heard], met with Mr. Nurbakhsh, our country's minister of economic affairs and finance at this ministry yesterday afternoon.

The Central News Unit reports that during this meeting, Mr. Nurbakhsh stressed the need for further expansion of economic cooperation between the two neighboring and Muslim countries and expressed hopes that the two countries' joint committee for economic, commercial, and technical cooperation will be held in Islamabad after the auspicious month of Ramadan.

Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan referred to the recent economic developments in the world and stated that the new situation has created a favorable opportunity for Pakistan and Iran to have closer bilateral and multilateral cooperation, especially within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

Meets With Habibi

LD0303225990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Mr Tanvir Ahmad Khan, Pakistan's acting foreign minister, met today Mr Habibi, the first deputy president. In the meeting, the acting Pakistani foreign minister presented a report about the situation in Kashmir and expressed praise and gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on that issue.

The first deputy president, for his part, reiterated the government of the Islamic Republic's unchanging stance with regard to Kashmir's Muslims. And, in view of the collapse of communism's ideological and actual walls, especially in Eastern Europe, he stressed the need for unity and coordination between Muslims throughout the world. In the meeting, the importance of joint economic cooperation between Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey and the relevant organisation, and the issue of Afghanistan were discussed. The two sides expressed the hope that cooperation between the two friendly, neighboring Muslim countries would increase in all fields.

Seen Off by Besharati

LD0303230590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan, Pakistan's acting foreign minister, who was visiting Tehran, left Tehran for his country this evening. He was seen off by Mr. Besharati, the acting foreign minister.

In an interview with our reporter before leaving Tehran, Tanvir Ahmad Khan described his talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran's authorities as satisfactory.

About the talks in connection with the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, he said: We achieved good results and useful developments will occur in that regard in the next few weeks.

In an interview with our reporter, Besharati named the subjects discussed as the issues of Afghanistan and Kashmir. He said: During Tanvir Ahmad Khan's visit, we were briefed about Pakistan's precise stance on Afghanistan. We consider the trip as a useful step in the expansion of ties between the two countries.

Turkish Joint Committee Meeting Held 27 Feb

NC0203085990 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 27 Feb 90

[Text] Heavy Industries Minister Nejad-Hoseinian and Minister of State Cemil Cicek, who is responsible for Turkey's foreign trade, headed the first round of the Turkey-Iran joint economic and industrial committee meetings today. Cemil Cicek called on Iranian First

Deputy President Hasan Habibi this morning and proposed that the the two countries broaden relations in every area. Habibi responded by recalling the long-standing relations between the two countries [words indistinct] and expressed the hope that the talks will produce favorable results.

Turkey's Akbulut Views Economic, Trade Relations

TA0203100190 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2100 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut has said that Turkey wishes to further promote relations with Iran. Akbulut, currently in Iran on an official visit, gave a dinner today in honor of Iranian First Deputy President Hasan Habibi. In a statement during the dinner, Akbulut said that basing trade between the two countries on a free foreign exchange rate instead of a bartering system will be to the benefit of both sides. He added that this will result in increased economic and trade relations.

Serdar Dimli and Necmettin Ulkumen from Turkish Radio and Television report from Tehran that, in turn, Habibi declared that his country attached great importance to relations with Turkey. Noting that Turkey and Iran have a great economic potential in the region, Habibi said that both countries will benefit greatly from planned joint ventures.

Meanwhile, Akbulut met today in Tehran with Turkish businessmen who are accompanying him. In a statement following the meeting, Akbulut said that views were exchanged with them on their contacts in Iran. He added that the businessmen also had the impression that Iran wants to maintain a good relationship with Turkey. He continued: We also want to further develop our relationship with Iran. Our political will is focused on this point. Our businessmen are continuing their work, each in his own sector. I believe that the possibility exists at this time to engage in lasting and comprehensive cooperation with Iran.

Calls Tehran Talks 'Fruitful'

LD0203215190 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Ankara, Mar. 2, IRNA—Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut today described his just-concluded visit to Tehran as 'fruitful'. Akbulut, who was talking to reporters at Ankara Airport upon his return from a 4-day official visit to Tehran, said the two countries have agreed to replace cash payment with barter system in their trade transactions. Changing barter system into cash system would entail 'positive effects' on the promotion of mutual ties, the Turkish premier said. The two countries signed a protocol for mutual commercial and economic cooperation before the Turkish delegation left Tehran airport this morning.

He said the Turkish Government would use its experiences and capabilities in Iran's reconstruction projects besides helping its neighbor to complete the vacant capacities of some of its factories. Both Iran and Turkey have decided to set up a joint commission to Turkey for export of Iranian natural gas to Europe, he said. The two countries place emphasis on strengthening their cooperation (ECO) which also includes Pakistan, he said.

The Turkish premier also said that he had informed Iranian officials of his government's concern over the failure of Iran and Iraq to achieve a lasting peace since a UN-mediated ceasefire went into effect between them in August 1988.

While in Tehran, the Turkish premier met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Vice President Hasan Habibi and Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi.

Soviet Railways Minister Arrives for Joint Session

LD0103171190 Tehran IRNA in English 1411 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 1, IRNA—Soviet Railways Minister Nikolay Semenovich Konarev arrived here Thursday at the head of a delegation to participate in the 12th Irano-Soviet Joint Commission.

Upon arrival, Konarev told reporters that the commission would concentrate its talks on major agreements reached by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow last June.

He said both the Iranian and Soviet parties to the talks were to review the minutes of the 11th joint commission held in Tehran last year and to sign another protocol for the 12th session which would guarantee mutual cooperation in various fields.

Konarev also said that among other topics to be discussed by the two sides were 'possible sale of Soviet-made passenger planes to Iran and bilateral cooperation in the use of nuclear energy.'

Minister of Economy and Finance Mohsen Nurbakhsh, who welcomed the Soviet delegation at Tehran airport, said that the commission would finalize long term cooperation agreements already discussed by the two neighboring states.

'The negotiations will focus mainly on such topics as gas, energy, dam construction and steel,' Nurbakhsh said.

He pointed out that cooperation between the two countries in the field of nuclear energy was at research stage.

Pakistan

Kashmir Strike Protests Indian 'Massacre'

BK0203160090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] A total strike was observed in Azad Kashmir today in protest against yesterday's [1 March] massacre

of Kashmiris in Srinagar by the Indian forces. Public meetings were held, rallies were taken out, and black flags were waved.

In Mazaffarabad, a mammoth rally was organized by various political, religious, and social organizations. The participants of the rally raised slogans against Indian atrocities. The speakers of meetings expressed total solidarity with the Kashmiri freedom fighters.

Such meetings and rallies were held in Mirpur, Bagh, Rawala Kot, Kotli, and other places. Funeral prayers in-absentia were also held at various places for the souls of the martyrs of Srinagar. A long march from Abbottabad, which was organized by the Abbottabad People's Party, reached Muzaffarabad today.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan has expressed deep sorrow and anguish over the brutal and indiscriminate firing on the innocent Kashmiri demonstrators in Srinagar and the martyrdom of several demonstrators. He urged the Government of Pakistan and all the international organizations to bring pressure on India to stop its atrocities in the occupied Kashmir.

Kashmir President Meets With Ishaq Khan

BK0303154090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] The president of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, met with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. He discussed with the president the latest situation in Indian-held Kashmir, particularly the mass killings by Indian troops in Srinagar. He also apprised Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan about the Azad Kashmir people's feelings on the present situation in Indian-held Kashmir.

A meeting of 11 Azad Kashmir political and religious parties was held in Islamabad today to consider the present situation in occupied Kashmir. It was convened by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister, Sardar Siknader Hayat Khan. It strongly condemned Indian atrocities carried out on innocent, unarmed Kashmiris. The meeting also clarified that the people of occupied Kashmir are demanding their right to self-determination in accordance with UN resolutions, and assured full support to the freedom fighters of occupied Kashmir. The meeting decided that the Azad Jammu and Kashmir government will send delegations to various countries to explain the Kashmir issue and gather support for the freedom fighters.

Commends Bhutto's Stand on Kashmir

BK0403073290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan has commended the statements of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on the recent developments in occupied Kashmir. In a statement in Islamabad yesterday [3 March], he said the Pakistan prime minister, while supporting the cause of Kashmiri people, has truly reflected the feelings and aspirations of the whole nation.

The Azad Kashmir president said the people of Kashmir are eagerly waiting for the visit of Ms. Benazir Bhutto to Azad Jammu and Kashmir because the visit will help forge complete solidarity between the people of Pakistan and Kashmir.

Bhutto To Brief National Leaders on Kashmir

BK0403160990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has invited national leaders outside of Parliament to a briefing and discussion on the latest situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir on 12 March. Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan told newsmen in Islamabad today that Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will brief the national leaders on the prevailing situation in occupied Kashmir. The national leaders to be invited include Air Marshall (rtd) Mohammad Khan Junejo, Mohammad Asghar Khan, Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, Sher Baz Khan Mazari, Mairaj Mohammad Khan, Fatehyab Ali Khan, Mir (Deen) Bizenjo, Allama Sadiq Naqvi, Allama Hamid Musavi, Professor Sajid Mir, Professor Tahirul Qadiri, Latif Afridi, and Mahmud Khan Achakzai.

Aitzaz Ahsan announced that the prime minister will address a joint session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council in Muzaffarabad on 13 March. He also announced that Benazir Bhutto will address a public meeting at Minar-i-Pakistan in Lahore on 20 March on the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Pakistan resolution.

In answer to a question, the interior minister said it is not necessary for the prime minister to again seek a vote of confidence because a clear, exhaustive interpretation in this regard already exists in the Constitution.

About the proposed all-party conference on the Sindh situation, the interior minister said that law and order is a provincial matter and only those persons, groups, and parties who live there are competent to discuss the Karachi and Hyderabad situation. The Sindh administration has been changed and new opportunities have been created for negotiations and discussions at the provincial level.

The interior minister said: We are certainly concerned about the deteriorating law and order situation in Punjab, where the number of violent crimes is comparatively higher than that of other provinces. We understand that the maintenance of law and order is the sole responsibility of the provinces, the interior minister added.

Answering another question, Aitzaz Ahsan said that there are no differences between the president and the prime minister on the proposed all-party conference. The president accepts the fact that the government reserves the right to decide the level at which the conference should be convened.

Official Says Nuclear Plant Poses No Threat

BK0403163790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] The chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Mr. Munir Ahmed Khan, has said France has recognized Pakistan's requirements for cheaper energy for economic development of the country. He was briefing newsmen in Lahore today on the salient features of France's decision to supply a nuclear power plant to Pakistan. He emphasized that the plant is to be subject to safeguards by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and will not pose a threat to anybody.

Earlier, the atomic energy chief inaugurated a five-day national workshop on evaluation of IAEA technical cooperation projects.

Sri Lanka

1,200 Indian Troops in North Leave for Home

BK0503093690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0919 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Colombo, March 5 (AFP)—More Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority Northeastern Province have returned home ahead of the complete withdrawal of the force by March 31, a government statement said Monday [5 March]. It said 1,200 troops sailed Saturday from the eastern port of Trincomalee, while 248 left from Kankesanthurai port in the north.

Indian troops were deployed in the region under a July 1987 peace agreement between Colombo and New Delhi which sought to end Tamil separatism in the island.

There was no clear estimate Monday about the number of Indian troops still on the island. Indian officials originally put their strength at 55,000.

The majority Sinhalese community had strongly opposed the deployment of the so-called Indian Peace Keeping Force as an infringement of the country's sovereignty.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who came to power a year ago promising he would send the troops home, secured an agreement from New Delhi to take them all back by March 31.

14,000 Sinhalese 'Rebels' Held by Government

BK0503100090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0934 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Colombo, March 5 (AFP)—Nearly 14,000 Sinhalese rebels are held in detention and rehabilitation camps in SriLanka, officials said Monday [5 March]. They said that 9,921 of them were taken into custody under emergency regulations during anti-rebel operations by the police and the security forces, while the rest had surrendered in response to government appeals and were housed in rehabilitation camps.

Most of the detainees belonged to the rebel Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), which draws its support mainly from the educated unemployed youth among the majority Sinhalese community, they said.

The JVP had been carrying on a violent campaign to overthrow the government before being weakened by the elimination of its top leadership in a series of security force operations since November.

Thousands of government supporters, police and security force personnel and their family members on the one hand and rebels and their sympathisers on the other have died in savage battles during the last two years.

Under emergency regulations the police and the security forces have sweeping powers including detetention without trial.

The government recently lifted some of these stringent regulations including powers to the police and the security forces to dispose of bodies without an official public inquest.

Communique Reports Number of Detainees in Custody

BK0503113790 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1054 GMT 5 Mar 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 5 (LANKAPUVATH)—A government communique issued today states that there are 9,921 detainees in camps, prisons and in police custody. The communique also states that there are 3,986 persons, who had surrendered to the authorities, now under rehabilitation.

Police Commandos Arrest 9 Suspected 'Subversives'

BK0503112490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1101 GMT 5 Mar 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 5 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan police commandos conducting search operations arrested 9 suspected subversives from the Uva and North Central Provinces yesterday [4 March]. A government communique issued today states that police commandos conducting search operations at Karulwela, Kotiyagala and Bambaragala in the Uva Province arrested 8 suspected subversives and recovered 6 shotguns and a large haul of cartridges. The communique further said that at Anuradhapura in the North Central Province, security forces arrested one suspected subversive.